

Bay Area Reporter

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395 NINTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

Dr. Sandra Hernandez Talks with the Bay Area Reporter

by Dennis Conkin

Newly appointed director of the San Francisco Department of Health, Sandra Hernandez, M.D., resists labels.

An upfront lesbian, a self-described Chicana and Mexicana who is a primary care physician and AIDS health-care expert, as well as a public health administrator, Hernandez won't be pigeonholed into any convenient stereotype.

"Yes I'm all those things and proud of it, but sometimes labels hurt me and

sometimes labels help me: I'm also a devout Catholic," she told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Among her first goals as director of the city's largest bureaucracy—an agency with an estimated 6,000 employees, a system of district health centers, an acute care and geriatric hospital, and numerous outpatient clinics operated in conjunction with UCSF Medical School, plus a budget of more than \$600 million dollars annually—is to begin to bring the cumbersome Health Department up to public

healthcare delivery speed.

Her goal, she said, is to "develop an efficient system to meet health care needs early on." At the moment, she admitted, "There's no question that we are ten years behind the times. That's a serious understatement for people we are serving."

Hernandez said that the city's public healthcare system must provide quality services for a culturally diverse community with a variety of needs, in an efficient healthcare delivery system. And, she says, the Health Depart-



Dr. Sandra Hernandez, new head of the SF Health Department, meets the press following her January 12 swearing-in.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

ment must streamline the way it delivers those services, in ways that cost it less without a decrease in quality.

A graduate of Tufts School of Medicine who did her medical residency at University of

(Continued on page 16)



New kids on the block

Paul Pendergast (left), president of the GGBA; Lauri Irving (center), founding member of Gays and Lesbians of African Descent for Democratic Action; and management consultant Mike Fredrickson (right) were three of the four members of the lesbian and gay community sworn in January 14 by Mayor Frank Jordan as members of the 27-person San Francisco Commission on National Service. See story on page 13.

(Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

Huge Quake Shocks Lesbian and Gay L.A.

by Karen Ocambs

A huge 6.6 bomb of an earthquake struck Southern California at 4:31 a.m. on Monday, January 17, leaving 43 dead and thousands wounded, homeless, and painfully powerless. By mid-morning of the next day, scientists had counted 500 aftershocks, decreasing from a 5.7 magnitude with one a minute at 2.0 or better, according to open lesbian Cal-Tech seismologist Dr. Kate Hutton, who provided vital information for the media.

By mid-afternoon President Clinton had declared Los Angeles County a disaster area. Mayor Richard Riordan and the Los Angeles City Council heard testimony from Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros; Transportation Secretary Fredrico Pena (three of the most traveled freeways in the world had collapsed); former San Francisco Mayor Art

Agnos; several Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials; and fire, police and sheriff department officials, about the subsequent disaster to the already hard-hit L.A. population and economy.

Although Northridge and the surrounding Valley was the epicenter for the quake, open lesbian City Councilmember Jackie Goldberg's 13th District was also hard hit. Goldberg was particularly angry to discover that unethical landlords had leased unsafe apartments to several Armenian and Latino families, and had allegedly threatened them with a legal morass if they complained. One future scenario suggests Goldberg working with open lesbian Roberta Achtenberg, Undersecretary at HUD, to investigate possible federal civil rights violations.

Individual homes and businesses of lesbians and gays

living in the Valley were damaged, as were homes and apartments of gays living in West Hollywood and Silverlake—just "over the hill" from the epicenter. Antique stores and decorator showrooms along La Cienega and Melrose Avenue were showcases of broken glass and dreams.

Center vs. epicenter

The Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center in Hollywood suffered damage and was forced to close for a day, although a skeleton staff remained for "emergency drop-in crisis" situations, according to a message from executive director Lorri L. Jean AIDS Project Los Angeles also closed for a day to clean up the "superficial damage" done to the dental clinic, the Necessities of Life program, and the "mess" on office floors, according to spokesperson Dean Licita.

(Continued on page 17)

First of Two Sections

vise new anti-AIDS strategies? Why do these individuals have a short-term compartmentalized antibody response to HIV which is confined to the urinary tract? There is no accompanying blood serum antibody response or evidence of infected T-helper (CD4+) cells, no matter which biomedical technology is used to detect their presence serologically.

Antibodies to HIV in the urinary tract

Biomedical researchers have begun to unravel and answer these intriguing questions. According to Dr. Dave Robeson, President of Calypte Biomedical Corporation in Berkeley, where the WB urine analysis test was developed, "Antibody responses limited to the urinary tract are not unique to individuals exposed to low titers of the AIDS virus: individuals suffering from urinary tract infections by particular microorganisms have antibody responses confined to the urinary tract 'compartment'."

"The mechanism in the case of HIV is more complex and not fully understood: antibodies to HIV in seropositive individuals can be detected.

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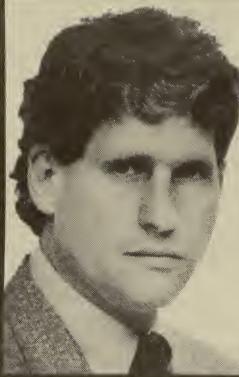
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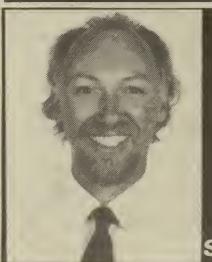
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Community News

The Annual Health Dept. Budget Battle Begins Again

by Mike Salinas

Mayor Frank Jordan fired the first shot in San Francisco's 1994-95 budget war by calling for a \$10 million to \$15 million cut for the Health Department, but full staffing of the Police Department.

According to United Press International, Jordan's \$1 billion spending plan also includes a \$6 million increase for the Fire Department and \$4 million more for Municipal Railway maintenance. The mayor also wants to spend \$6 million to complete construction of the new County Jail.

The proposed cut in funds for the Health Department has drawn fire from several members of the Board of Supervisors.

"If the Health Department finds ways to economize, we will support it, but we will not stand still for service reductions," Supervisor Carole Migden said.

Supervisor Angela Alioto said she was opposed to spending \$6 million for the new jail "when people are dying who we're not taking care of."

Jim Lewis of ACT UP San Francisco said the proposed cut in the health budget "is symptomatic of the general decline of civilization, that the mayor of San Francisco would see fit to cut services to those who are starving and dying in order not to tax his wealthy supporters."

"Unfortunately, these short-sighted policies will also have disastrous effects in the

future, as cuts in AIDS prevention services now will create very expensive illness and death later," Lewis told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Only days before Jordan's suggestions were released the mayor was embarrassed by the selection of Sandra Hernandez, M.D., to run the Health Department by the Health Commission. The week before, Jordan had endorsed Florence Stroud for the post, an endorsement the commission ignored in a 6-1 vote.

Noah Griffin, Jordan's press secretary, denied the proposed cut was prompted by the mayor's current discomfiture with the Health Department.

"Frank Jordan is not a vindictive man," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Frank Jordan is looking ahead, and trying to do what's best for San Francisco."

"Last year," Griffin pointed out, "the mayor got an increase in the budget for the Health Department" during a bad fiscal period in the city. Unfortunately, Griffin said, such an increase won't be possible this fiscal year with the city's worsening budget crunch.

"This is not going to be a pleasant budget year," he predicted.

The city's deficit is projected to be as much as \$150 million this year, down from last year's \$210 million, according to Dana Van Gorder, legislative aide to Supervisor Migden.

"It could change. They're



Mayor Frank Jordan.

still in the process of anticipating what the Governor's budget means for the city, and I don't think we've exactly figured that out yet," Van Gorder said.

Although the Health Department has an annual budget of over \$600 million, the city wants to cut the \$120 million it received from the city treasury last year to \$110 million this year, according to Health Department spokesperson Wendy Ho Iwata.

However, Iwata acknowledged, the Health Department and the Mayor's Office have reached an agreement where the cash-strapped department will be allowed to keep any revenues remaining after costs this fiscal year and reinvest them into the Health Department, instead of being required to pay the profits to the city's general treasury fund. ▼

Wilson Unveils His '94 Budget

by Marghe Covino
B.A.R. Capitol Correspondent

SACRAMENTO — Governor Wilson's proposed 1994-95 state budget is balanced. Some critics say it is balanced on the backs of the poor and the sick, children, and the medically indigent. "He's done it again," said Robert Rios, lobbyist for the LIFE AIDS Lobby in Sacramento. "Once again Wilson has picked up his budget axe and swung it at the healthcare needs of Californians."

"This budget makes tough choices," Wilson told reporters at a press briefing on the new budget on Friday, January 7. In fact, most of those choices involve proposed deep cuts in welfare. Beginning January 1, 1995, families with an able-bodied adult would have their grants reduced by 15 percent after they have been in the Aid To Dependent Children program for six months. Able-bodied adults who have been in the AFDC program for two years would be dropped altogether under Wilson's plan. Approximately 60 percent of the 2.7 million families in the welfare program have been on AFDC for more than two years, according to state budget officials.

In addition to eliminating certain benefits for persons on MediCal — including adult

dental services, medical supplies, non-emergency medical transportation, psychological and chiropractic services — \$2.5 billion of health and welfare costs will be shifted to already hard-pressed counties under his plan. In addition, Wilson proposes to eliminate healthcare for undocumented residents of California.

Rios is outraged that Wilson's proposed budget holds no increases for AIDS line items. There is no provision for additional HIV testing, prevention education, or care in the budget. "The AIDS pandemic continues to devastate California, while our Governor apparently thinks it's a problem not worth mentioning. It's more than shortsighted. It's lethal," Rios said.

AIDS Budget Lobby Day is scheduled for May 16 this year, so that citizen lobbyists can go to the Capitol to attempt to protect AIDS funding.

However, this budget of \$55.35 billion represents a 1.7 percent — or \$942 million — increase over the current fiscal year. It is \$1.13 billion below the \$56.48 billion the state was spending until the recession-forced spending cuts of a year ago. The budget is comprised of \$20.38 billion from personal income tax; \$15.82 billion in sales tax; \$7.29 billion in gasoline and other motor vehicle fees; \$5.12 billion



Governor Pete Wilson

in bank and corporate taxes; \$1.20 billion in insurance tax; \$1.57 billion in liquor, cigarette, estate and all other state taxes and fees; and \$1.7 billion in anticipated federal fund recoveries.

The budget will be allocated to local schools at \$18.77 billion; health and welfare at \$14.28 billion; \$4.46 billion for housing, transportation and highway projects; \$3.95 billion for prisons; \$4.64 billion for higher education; \$1.7 billion for parks, fish and game and other resources programs; \$729 million would be allocated for consumer protection programs; \$577 million for environmental programs and \$6.24 billion for other state programs.

In this proposed budget there is no provision for new taxes. ▼

Community News



Pretenders to the throne

Saturday, January 15, saw the presentation of this year's crop of royal wannabes. Anita Martini (holding mike) and Delta Burke lookalike Susie Cartwright (second from right) are vying for empress. Emperor candidates (left to right) Michael Coin, Chuck Adkins, Robb Esmond, and Mr. Lee-Ona. Voting is February 12 at Charpe's, and the coronation will be February 19 at the Gift Center.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

The Blue Eyed Bandit Is Busted – And then Released!

by Dennis Conkin

The San Francisco District Attorney's Office has dismissed three felony charges against Stefan Buffleb, the so-called "Blue Eye Bandit." Buffleb, a German national accused by several local gay men of theft, was arrested in the Castro Saturday, January 14, and booked on three felony and two misdemeanor counts at the Hall of Justice by San Francisco police.

Buffleb was arrested on felony charges of burglary, credit card forgery, and possession of stolen property, plus misdemeanor resisting arrest and assault on a police officer. Two of the felony charges were dismissed, and he was rebooked by the District Attorney's on misdemeanor stolen property and resisting arrest and assault charges.

Because the charges were reduced from felonies to misdemeanors, Buffleb was cited and released on the charges.

The *Bay Area Reporter* has asked the District Atto-

ney's office to explain why the felony charges were dropped but a response was not available at press time.

Why the nickname?

Buffleb, according to victims who reported his alleged modus operandi to the *Bay Area Reporter* last fall, would meet people either in bars or other gay venues. After befriending his victims by telling them he was a German tourist who was down on his luck, he would allegedly steal from them. He was referred to as the Blue Eyed Bandit, not because of the color of his eyes, but because he had distinctive "eye liner" of that color tattooed to his lids.

One gay man allegedly lost \$200 in stolen checks to Buffleb, plus an undetermined amount of jewelry and other items. Buffleb had been staying with the man for several weeks after meeting him in a bar in the Castro but one night last November he failed to return.

"I met this guy down in the Castro. He needed a place

to stay and I said he could stay at my house. It all seemed all very well until he was supposed to show up..." the victim told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"I got a strange call that he had been in a car wreck and was in the hospital."

After checking all local hospitals without success for the tourist, the man waited two or three days, he said, without receiving word from Buffleb. Instead, he heard from another man who claimed to have been similarly duped by the individual.

"Then I checked. Several hundred dollars had been stolen out of my checking account and there were some checks missing. There were other things, jewelry and clothes. I was shocked as hell. I feel kind of silly," he said.

The case against Buffleb is under investigation by the Police Department's Fraud Bureau. Anyone who was victimized by Buffleb should call Fraud Inspector Phil Tammaro at 553-1521. ▼

Accident Kills SOMA Bar Owner

by Dennis Conkin

James Henry Fleckenstein, 45, long-time owner of San Francisco's renowned Stud Bar, died following an accidental fall from his Wisconsin Street apartment on Wednesday, January 12.

Fleckenstein moved to San Francisco in 1973 after being honorably discharged as an Air Force sergeant, and quickly became a manager at Hamburger Mary's, a popular South of Market diner. In 1976, he became a co-owner of the Stud, a pivotal South of Market gay dance bar that Fleckenstein once described as "a pretty good party bar" that has evolved through

psychedelic, disco, punk, new wave, funk, and other musical phases.

It was through Fleckenstein's hard work that he became the Stud's co-owner, offering his unpaid services to the owners at the time, on the condition that if he succeeded in improving the bar's popularity and profitability that he would get partial ownership. It was a gamble few would make, and fewer would make successful, but he did so with his characteristic good humor.

Fleckenstein also owned Sam's, a popular Lake Tahoe drinking establishment, and the Hamburger Mary's located on Lahaina, Maui.



Stud owner James (Jim) Henry Fleckenstein.

A memorial service and potluck celebrating Fleckenstein's life will be held at Hamburger Mary's, located at 1582 Folsom Street, on Monday, January 24 from 7 p.m.

Fleckenstein is survived by family in New York and numerous friends in the Bay Area. ▼

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Don will lead a workshop on this subject **Saturday, January 29** from 10am to 1pm at 1268 Sanchez at Clipper (Bethany United Methodist Church). There is a \$5-10 donation at the door to cover costs of advertising and Dan's traveling expenses, though no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Dan Stohler is a founding member of the Pasadena Chapter of Evangelicals Concerned Western Region. This event is sponsored by Evangelicals Concerned-San Francisco Bay Area. EC is pro-gay/lesbian AND pro-Christian! To get more information and to RSVP, call the EC-SFBA hotline at 415/621-ECWR(3297).

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Community News



Severed links: Berkeley Police Officer Rick Mosher (center) tests the heat from the Lesbian Avengers' grill January 15 after he received a complaint that the LA were using an open-flame grill. Mosher left when he determined the plump, juicy wieners were actually heated in an avenger's crockpot. On left is chef Katie Hern and on right, Sabrina Mazzoni. (Photo: Judi Parks)

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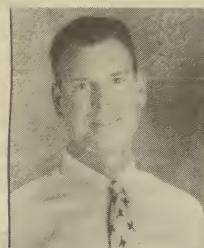
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We Are Here To Sever You:

Berkeley Bobbitt Rally Serves 'Members' to the Community

by Angela Bocage

Saturday, January 16, was a beautiful day for an outdoor barbecue. Beginning at noon, at the corner of Virginia and Shattuck streets in Berkeley, then at Telegraph and Durant, Lesbian Avengers and friends took advantage of the sunshine and the street traffic to offer passersby "barbecued" penis.

The *al fresco* chef, Katie Hern of the Avengers, reports that about 20 people accepted, then consumed, the juicy gifts. "The onlookers seemed to enjoy it; the women tended to be amused. The men were a little more guarded; I'd say, 'Barbecued penis, sir?' and they might say, 'Already have one!' Only one guy said anything negative."

The truncated members were actually franks — the healthy lowfat turkey variety, even — and the women were actually taking advantage of the humor subgenre that's sprung up around the Bobbitts to disseminate facts. The pieces of information, written on picnic paper plates as well as flyers, reflected the all-too-serious situation battered — and immigrant — women face. For example, a recent study in the nation's capital found that 77 percent of women whose residency status depends on a spouse are abused.

Another purpose of the street theater, said Hern, was to support Sharon Bottoms, the lesbian mother whose four-year-old son was taken away. "We want to keep the Bottoms case in the public eye. We were barbecuing John Wayne Bobbitt's penis in effigy, but with a special guest appearance by the penis of Judge Buford Parsons! We wanted to show what a farce the justice system is in Virginia — what 'family values' there really mean."

While Hern acknowledges that Virginia isn't the only place Neanderthalism reigns, the Bobbitts began at the Virginia corner to focus on the state as "a place a man can rape his wife with impunity, a place where children can be taken away from

loving parents on the basis of a judge's (Parsons's) bigotry, and a place where heterosexuality is radically enforced ... even if that enforcement entails exposing a child to sexual molestation." (Parsons delivered Tyler Bottoms into the custody of his maternal grandmother, whose boyfriend is known to have sexually abused Sharon Bottoms.)

As the group gave out weenies, fact-sheets, and fact-plates, and chanting things like "Yes means yes, no means no, or else that penis has got to go," Lisa Rudman, a participant from Women Against Imperialism (WAI) observed an apparently heterosexual quartet approach: "The two women laughed, slowed down to watch, and the men started walking more quickly."

Rudman found the moment emblematic, she told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "This has captured the imagination of women. Not just cutting off a man's penis, but resisting, fighting back. Women are fighting back all the time and it's not reported: we're presented in the media as victimized and that's what men see. Now, men have to think twice. I don't want Lorena to be sentenced to 20 years, I don't want to see her deported; I don't think it was good that she was driven to do what she did, but now men may have to think about repercussions, about maybe not getting away with it."

What spouses get away with doing to one another, according to Rudman, who worked with the Marital and Date Rape Clearinghouse, would boggle the mind if perpetrated by a stranger. "People, even progressive people, seem to find violence more acceptable in marriage. In the U.S., another woman is murdered by her male partner every 11 days. Every 1.3 seconds another woman is raped. But women who are found guilty of murdering their husbands serve sentences 80 percent longer than men who murder their wives, and 40 percent of women in prison are there for killing or injur-

ing men with histories of battery against them. These women had sought police protection an average of five times before taking action themselves."

Police had been summoned to the Bobbitt residence at least five times, which is not the only parallel Rudman sees between the Bobbitt case and those she worked on at the Clearinghouse. "Legally, a great deal depends on the concept of 'imminent danger.' When a woman does something like Lorena did, people might say, 'Well, she didn't do it while he was beating her.' But with a 90-pound woman up against a 200-pound Marine, she's not going to be able to do anything to protect herself then. It's clear she feared for her life. If she had been killed by him, as she feared — as was a real possibility — we would never have heard of her. It's chilling, that it wouldn't have even been news."

Rudman feels that having John's trial complete before Lorena's began is likely to prejudice opinion fatally against her. When the verdict is final, however, WAI is planning a response to conviction or acquittal. "When we hear the verdict, listening to the radio at work, or calling the WAI line, women are going to meet at 5 p.m. at the Montgomery BART station, or as soon thereafter as people can assemble. We were thinking, let's take the opportunity to shape a collective response rather than just individually shouting at the TV." Call WAI at (415) 995-4735 to find out more. Lesbian Avengers also plan to join in at Montgomery BART. They can be reached at (415) 267-6195.

While the nature of the San Francisco women's action is as yet unspecified, a large crowd of women demonstrating in Lorena Bobbitt's home country of Ecuador last week committed themselves to a very specific response, as reported in the San Francisco *Chronicle*. If she is found guilty, they vow to cut off 100 U.S. men's penises. ▀

Community News

Basher Pleads Guilty, Faces Sentencing in February

by Dennis Conkin

A San Francisco man will be sentenced on Tuesday, February 1, after pleading guilty to assault with a deadly weapon and hate crimes stemming from a May 1993 gay bashing incident.

On Monday, January 10, 24-year-old Timothy Rayford entered his plea in San Francisco Superior Court, admitting to an assault on a Sacramento gay man who he encountered at the Jack-in-the-Box on Seventh and Market Streets in San Francisco last May.

"The victim was out dancing with a couple of women friends," Assistant District Attorney Chuck Haines told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "They stopped at the Jack-in-the-Box for a hamburger before the ride home. The victim got out of the car, walked the ten feet to the door, and was approached by the defendant, who made derogatory remarks to the victim stating that 'this is not the Castro.'"

Rayford then struck the victim across the face with a 30-inch dowel rod, shattering facial bones, Haines said.

The victim, whose name

was not released, required surgery — twice — to repair the injuries, and now faces a third operation.

Rayford was captured by a San Francisco police officer who had observed him trying to hide the weapon. When the officer encountered the victim moments later, he arrested Rayford.

After Rayford was arrested and posted bail, he and an accomplice robbed two banks in Contra Costa County. He was convicted of those crimes, for which he is currently serving a five-year state prison sentence. ▼

Timothy Holless Dies at 33

by Dennis Conkin

Timothy Holless, 33, died New Year's Day at St. Mary's Hospital in San Francisco of complications related to AIDS.

Holless was diagnosed in 1986 with the illness and became ill about two years ago, according to his sister Susan Hess of Solon, Ohio.

Holless was the subject of national press attention after an ugly incident in which an American Airlines flight attendant ordered him off Flight 35 in Chicago last November. The stewardess had decided that Holless' Kaposi's Sarcoma lesions were "open wounds" and ordered them covered. Holless had also given himself an intravenous infusion through an implanted catheter.

Observers to the incident said that Holless had no open wounds on his face and the flight attendant overreacted to his medical condition.

Holless refused to leave the plane as ordered and was dragged off by Chicago police, belly-down, screaming in pain.

His nightmare was just beginning.

Where he went

Hess told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Holless, who was a San Francisco resident,



Timothy Holless, who filed suit against American Airlines.

spent the night in a Chicago shelter, where he was beaten and robbed. He was re-hospitalized one day later, after he suffered a *grand mal* seizure at the Chicago home of a friend.

"The whole thing was like a nightmare. He ended up in the hospital and never really left the hospital after that," Hess told the *B.A.R.*

Holless received a public apology from American Airlines the day after the incident. Pursuant to a settlement agreement with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the airline has instituted educational training for flight attendants regarding all passengers with disabilities, Hess said, not just limited to

people with HIV.

The amount of the cash settlement with Holless was undisclosed.

Memorial services were held in Wapakoneta, Ohio and Chicago, Illinois.

A San Francisco memorial service, arranged by the Neptune Society, is scheduled for Saturday, January 29.

In addition to Hess, Holless is survived by his parents John and Evelyn Hole of Wapakoneta, brothers Tom and Todd Hole, former wife Valerie Nousak, and close friends including Steve Mendelsohn, Joe Anderson, David Behling, and Steven Smith. ▼

PWA Prods S.C. County For Clinic Improvement

by Marv. Shaw

Angered by the downsizing of facilities for treating people with AIDS in Santa Clara County, Rocki Montesano, himself a PWA, has organized a campaign to create more space, for both PWAs and staff. Montesano is concerned about the recent move to a small trailer by both Santa Clara's Early Intervention Program and HIV Clinic, and points out the cost-cutting move has resulted in such diminished facilities that people visiting the clinic for help now have to stand outside and wait to be served.

Montesano and others concerned about the diminished facility will meet Monday, January 24, with mayors — and/or their designees — and council members from the

cities of Santa Clara County at the Billy De Frank Gay and Lesbian Community Center on Stockton Street in San Jose. There, they will discuss the details of the present situation, and consider a plan for remedying any inadequacies.

Montesano's plan is to add linked mobile homes to the trailer and thereby create work space and a waiting area for patients. He told the *B.A.R.* that the cities involved have been informed in advance of his plan and should be prepared to enter a cost-sharing agreement for facility improvement. Montesano is hopeful that such an accord can be reached that night.

The meeting is scheduled for 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., and is completely open to the public. ▼

William F. Owen, Jr., M.D.

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Editorial

Pat Robertson's Pernicious Aftershock

Our hearts and prayers go out to those in Southern California. Remember that lesbians and gays are among those earthquake victims seen on television, and not just in West Hollywood. Those are lesbian moms and gay kids among the others in the shelters, and brave lesbians and gays helping with the rescue and the subsequent health emergencies, and serving the meals, and so forth.

It's a fortunate thing that the quake happened so early in the day and so late in the winter. If it had been 6 p.m. during the holiday shopping season, the carnage would have been much worse.

The survivors of those who died are probably not cheered to hear Pat Robertson on the *700 Club* attributing the deaths to America's dead fetuses, as we hear he did with ghoulish glee 24 hours after the disaster struck. Theology aside — *Pat Robertson deserves to spend eternity with the God he professes to believe in* — his statement is stupid on the surface and creepy somewhere beneath that. Fewer than 50 are known to have died in the Northridge quake, which is a fraction of the death toll that would mount if abortion were criminalized again. Of course, those deaths would be of women. Wanton women; sexual women. Robertson is perfectly willing to sacrifice them and pretend their bloody deaths aren't worth considering.

The statement is stupid, too, of course: he knows abortions don't cause earthquakes. We'd feel better if we thought he was stupid enough to believe his own statements; if that were the case he might be harmless. Instead, he is cynical enough to think his followers will believe him, which is dangerous, and some of them are, which is terrifying.

Robertson made the analogy in a way to imply the earth shifted to coincide with the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, but the quake missed that important date by several days. It happened, in fact, on Martin Luther King day, as if to reinforce the significance of that peacemaker's birth — and the absence of his vision, which is very much needed today. We long for the days when his was a voice that was heard and followed, just as we do for the days when "Reverend" was truly an honorable honorific, as it was for Dr. King. All too often, that title is now worn by the likes of Robertson, the very embodiment of King's spiritual antithesis.

The "Reverends" who work to divide their flocks there would do well to emulate the great Dr. King's philosophy and give up their grabs for power. Besides, if fame is what they're after, they should remember that King's name will last forever, long after the last person stops caring about the *700 Club's* ratings.

King, certainly, would have been among the loudest voices condemning the activities and tensions now rising in Ovett, Mississippi. Just because there is no update on the situation this week in the B.A.R. doesn't mean we have stopped thinking about it — and we don't want the White House or the Justice Department to forget either. Nor for that matter, should the wretched Les Aspin or Sam Nunn be allowed to ignore the problem. We still believe the citizens of Ovett were influenced in no small part by the military's insistence that some people shouldn't have to live with gay people — or, put another way, that gay people shouldn't be allowed to live with anyone else. Clinton, Nunn, and Aspin all need to be made aware that their actions have already begun to have hideous repercussions.

Janet Reno needs to be reminded, too, that there is an unpleasant situation brewing that needs her attention.

Those addresses are:

Bill Clinton
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Senator Sam Nunn
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Washington D.C. 20510
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Attorney General Janet Reno
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Washington, D.C. 20530
(202) 514-2000

Defense Secretary Les Aspin
3E 880
Pentagon Building
Washington D.C. 20301
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Guest Opinion

Combating False Helplessness

by Martin Delaney, Project Inform

A note by the Project Inform staff: "Michael Botkin's January 3 B.A.R. column (AIDS: The Year in Review) seriously misled readers about Project Inform, a national AIDS treatment organization. Project Inform did not "implode" in '93, our "entire paid staff" did not "resign" (far from it! — staff morale is very high), we have not been "pursuing back room deals with the pharmaceutical companies," and we have not been "quiescent." Our hotline received almost 55,000 calls, outreach work to people with AIDS improved with over 40 Town Meetings locally and nationally, our advocacy and public policy work — especially the Immune Restoration Think Tanks and the Future Directions in AIDS Research meetings (considered essential by a broad spectrum of community activists, researchers and policy makers) — has been stronger in 1993 than any other year.

The staff, volunteers, and donors at Project Inform deserve better reporting. More importantly, people with AIDS need better, more accurate reporting.

"With the support of the B.A.R. we offer the following comments about AIDS, hopelessness, and the media from Martin Delaney, PI's Founding Director. If you have questions about Project Inform, or if you would be interested in working on any of several projects, call us at (415) 558-8669. Our next Town Meeting in San Francisco is Wednesday, January 26. Call the P.I. Treatment Hotline for details, (415) 558-9051."

The community lost one of its most brilliant and vociferous AIDS activists recently with the death of Jesse Dobson. Dobson created and administered a program called Project Immune Restoration, which focused research attention on restoring the immune systems of people in late-stage AIDS. Because of his work there has been a worldwide surge of both laboratory and clinical investigations into this critically needed area. More than almost anyone I can think of, Dobson showed that a single person can make a lasting difference in the fight against AIDS. His efforts will benefit all those who have survived him.

It is sad to note a puzzling increase in AIDS-related deaths since midsummer. In San Francisco the monthly toll recently reached a sudden all-time high, far higher than earlier in the year. There is no purely

medical or statistical explanation for this, since nothing has really changed. All that really shifted, it seems, are the attitudes of the infected — a powerful swing from an attitude of hope to one of hopelessness. The most likely culprit is the mood of despair that surfaced at the Berlin International AIDS Conference — a mood that has been almost gleefully amplified by some sources within the community. For some it was an opportunity to gloat because their most-hated therapy took a few knocks at the conference. For others it was perhaps just a good way to express dissatisfaction with the political and scientific response to AIDS, always a worthy target. But what came across to people was a chorus of gloom: "Nobody's doing anything," "Treatment doesn't work," "Nothing helps, nothing matters." Such messages wreak havoc on the minds of those who already see their lives hanging by a thread. Consciously or unconsciously, for some it was the last straw.

Unfortunately, not all people have the luxury of being able to indulge themselves so freely to make a political point. For many, hope is a precious commodity that must be guarded jealously. For now, hope is perhaps the most potent therapy available against AIDS, while hopelessness remains its most destructive pathogen. When the spirit gives up, the body soon follows. Rage may be an adequate alternative for some, but it doesn't work for everyone. As a friend with AIDS said the other day, "I don't need the press or anyone else telling me how awful things are. I'm already struggling with all my might to keep my own despair under control."

Being sensitive to one another's hopes doesn't mean overlooking real problems, but it does require a sense of balance and a commitment not to overstate the negative. AIDS research has so far failed to produce a therapy that can reliably slow or prevent the course of disease in all patients, and we are already fighting for something better. But we can't overlook the fact that the average life span with this horrible disease has more than doubled in recent years and that a significant portion of those infected are alive and well after 15 years, some with and some without therapy. Important new treatments such as protease inhibitors and immune-based therapies are showing real promise in early testing. No one has the right or the moral license to take hope away for any reason. ▼

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Wayne Friday

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Letters

Perverted Suggestions

Like the Berlin Wall, the Homo Wall, recently constructed by right wing kkkristians, will someday come down and the restoration of the family can begin. Education is the key.

As a child growing up in the First Baptist Church of Anytown, Mississippi, I learned a lot about Jesus. He came to fulfill and to replace the law. He represented peace, love, tolerance, kindness, empathy, understanding, solace, reassurance, comfort and acceptance. The "a c" kind of accept, not the "e x," except you.

With maturing years, I have put away belief in the supernatural, but I am ever mindful that Jesus Christ spoke of love and inclusion. Who (whom?) did he seek out? Who did he call unto himself? Who did he reject? Who did he throw out of the temple?

On the subject of homosexuals, the religious fundamentalists are speaking with the voice and mind of Satan. Evil, sin, exclusion, prejudice, intolerance, bigotry, divisiveness. Their position is one that will not last for they do not speak as Jesus would have spoken. And Satan is enjoying every second of all the discord he is causing. This truly is a David vs. Goliath struggle. David and fellow young Hebrew hunk Jonathan had time together after David's victory over Goliath. Later, after the death of Jonathan, David lamented: "I am distressed by you, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant have you been to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women (II Samuel 1:26).

The fundamentalists still think that sexual orientation is something of a choice. The ones who think this conveniently forget that they themselves, heterosexuals, did not have a choice and never made a choice. They first were blinded by faith, and now they are blinded by Satan.

Did Jesus ever exclude anyone? Did he say: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you?"

Even the kkkristians' Exodus International and other such perverted suggestions are an attempt to edify their homophobia.

Jay Martin, President
Humanist Community of San Francisco
San Francisco

Support Sister Spirit

Thank you for your reports on Brenda and Wanda Henson, who are operating the Camp Sister Spirit feminist retreat in Ovett, Mississippi.

I was very impressed by their appearance on the Oprah Winfrey Show. They are articulate and hard-working. I wrote a letter of support for them which they answered.

These brave women are almost singlehandedly fighting off a coalition of 18 Baptist ministers as well as numerous townspeople who don't understand all the good these two are doing.

We, too, in the Bay Area have come under attack by fundamentalists. The huge difference is that we have hundreds of thousands of lesbian and gay people right here for moral and political support. These women don't have the same fortune.

As a gay man, I would like to remind other gay men how supportive our lesbian sisters have been in the health crisis that has affected many thousands of gay men. Let us show our appreciation by doing our best to support women's causes too.

I hope that many of your readers will join me in sending a contribution to these fine women for the important work they are doing. Their address is Camp Sister Spirit, P.O. Box 12, Ovett, MS 39464.

Jay Davidson
Palo Alto, California

Gender Illusions

Back in the 1970s, Professor Sally Gearhart wrote a now-famous article in which she berated gay men for their clannish and shallow ways, a truth that has changed considerably since the advent of AIDS, I suspect. I recall that the article peeved me at the time because I sensed that she was generally accurate in her perceptions.

Now, I also have my own observation to offer, but in regard to lesbians. Lesbians (unlike gay men) have an unfortunate apathy toward their so-called opposite sex (and I don't mean as sexual objects, either, although the cause is based on the shallowness of sexuality, but) toward men as people, constituting one-half of the human race. Note, I did not use the word "hate," the result of real or imagined causes. I am referring to the rudeness, the general unloving and disrespect that "apathy" indicates. This apathy is idiotic and self-defeating because, in the human sense, it creates a kind of insanity to cut — or attempt to cut one's self off from the human interchange of half the population, merely out of respect to sexual preference.

Making this attitude even more absurd is the fact that in actuality — and on another level to which we may all elevate one day — gender does not exist beyond illusion. Even the Biblical, conservative Saint Paul agreed with that.

Steve Hunter
San Francisco

Ed. Note: St. Paul said a lot of things, a very, very long time ago. He's dead.

Board Boo-Boo

In haste to meet your Dec. 16 issue deadline, I.A. Kisselman made some basic errors in the headline and story about the AIDS Emergency Fund which may give the unfortunate impression that a new seven-member board is elected annually by our organization.

The AIDS Emergency Fund has not installed a new board of directors. Rather, the seven board members you named were elected to three-year terms on the board at our December board meeting. Two current members, Lance Henderson and Kay Tsenin, will leave the board this month as their terms expire. Fourteen other directors continue to serve. These include Stephen McNeil who was reelected to a new one-year term in December and Victor Newman, Rick Salinas and Dennis Wade, reelected in October. Darrell J. Yee, our longest-tenured member, joined the board in 1985.

These distinctions are important because the A.E.F. is administered by a "working board" whose volunteer members oversee all aspects of the agency's operations. Continuity of board personnel is essential; management can't just be turned over to a new board each year. Seven people could not begin to run the organization; authorized board strength is now 25 members.

Most of the newly-elected board members have already been associated with the AIDS Emergency Fund as volunteers — one for more than five years. We are grateful for their willingness to undertake the considerable responsibilities of board membership. Their diverse skills will further strengthen the AIDS Emergency Fund board.

Dennis Wade, Secretary
AIDS Emergency Fund
San Francisco

Photo Op Greatest Self-Delusion

In his article, ("Fluff 'n' Stuff," B.A.R., Dec. 16), Brandon Judell, in discussing my book, *Extraordinary Friends*, argues that I am either delusional or crazy to think my work may have any meaning in the struggle against homophobia.

He cites as evidence of my "tendency for self-delusion," a story I told him about my childhood. In our interview, I told him that my parents were so obsessed with what we did not have, that when my mother made homemade soup (commenting on how much cheaper it was) I assumed that we could not afford canned soup. The point of this anecdote is that the teaching of fear and deprivation, although illusory, can be internalized as reality and result in negative feelings about ourselves and our circumstances in life. I meant this story as an analogy to the negativity and fear we gay people have been taught about ourselves and our sexual orientation.

I have been fortunate to know people who have attempted to fight these negative teachings and not detach from their sexuality, especially in the face of the AIDS crisis. These are the people who appear in my photographs. I consider their affirmation of their physical selves to be healthy acts of self-love. As an HIV-positive person myself, I consider that my efforts to remain connected to the physical/sensual self have been essential to my survival.

Judell says: "Some have said that in the age of AIDS, Bianchi proffers an insane point of view." He apparently agrees with whoever those "some" are. He does not himself discuss these issues or articulate any argument in support of this conclusion. Rather, he dismisses "creative people" as less than sane, citing Paul Lynde's taste in jewelry as evidence. By trivializing the discussion, he makes the title he chose for his report of our discussion an apt characterization of the thinking of at least one of us.

In evaluating the merits of my work, Judell relies on a quote taken from a telephone interview with a critic of my photographs who finds them "vapid, soft porn fantasy." Because it is addressed to the gay community, this critic finds it "manipulative." Characterizing my motives, he says, "It's not about him trying to experience some truth about homoerotic feeling or trying to present that to us." In answer, I say this — I am grateful to be a gay man. I am grateful to be connected in friendship and love to men and women who I have found to be strong, tender, free-spirited, witty, sexy, playful, loving and — as a result — beautiful. I have tried to portray and celebrate these qualities in my photographs. I also know that for those who do not see what I see, my words are probably impotent. But I write anyway, hoping that we all will eventually see something good in ourselves reflected back to us from these images. Perhaps this hope is my greatest self-delusion.

Tom Bianchi
San Francisco

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Letters

Christian Fascists

I encourage every gay and lesbian to go and see the movie, *Schindler's List*. It is a frightening and chilling account of where fascism took this planet more than half a century ago.

More important, though, it should serve as a very clear and graphic warning of where the Lou Sheldons and other Christian fascists want to take our nation. Make no mistake, the Lou Sheldons and Pat Robertsons in this country are not just interested in denying us our rights — they are working night and day to deny us the very right to exist.

We must never forget that fascism will arrive in this country holding a bible or wearing the uniform of our military, or both. When religion and fascism wed with the military, as it already has in many parts of this nation such as Colorado Springs, the results are obvious.

See the film. Then ask yourself: "Is that my future?" It doesn't have to be if each of us decide to do something — anything — to help and protect our community!

Patrick A. Tifer
San Francisco

Just Like Nancy

The liquor license for the Lone Star Saloon is up for review before the Alcoholic Beverage Control. I was very surprised to see the number of people present at the meeting. I was shocked to see that hardly any Lone Star patrons, if any at all, showed up — considering the circumstances. Ralph Jacks would have been there but he was busy delivering meals for Open Hand. The Lone Star's license is being questioned due to the practices of "some of the friendliest people in San Francisco." The neighbors are fed up with the defecating and urinating as well as the "misused drug abuse."

Come on "friendliest." You patrons are threatening your favorite bar and hangout. Not to mention the new owners' investment! I have to thank the new owners, especially Mr. Steven Watson, for their fortitude and perseverance and tremendous dedication in continuing a grand tradition. I have spent many a "friendly" evening there, enjoying nights that are reminiscent of nights spent at the Ambush which was located right across the street.

You patrons, comrades, bikers and bears are responsible! You are responsible for your conduct when you leave that place. What did you say? If you drive home drunk and, God forbid, injure someone or worse, kill someone, the bar is liable for serving you too much alcohol! No, friendly people, life should be liberty without license.

The responsibility is up to each and every one of us. Pissing and shitting anywhere but the proper place is not being responsible. Throwing syringes out on the street is just plain, well, stupid! Used rubber? You used good sense to put it on your extremity — use the good sense of your other extremity, your brain and properly dispose of it, period!

If you see anyone pissing or doing anything wrong, stand up for your interests and just say "No!", just like Nancy. Our community is our own worst enemy.

So find out when the next hearing/meeting is and get out there and show your support. Remember what happens when complacency settles in ... Oregon, Colorado, Hawaii, etc., etc., ad nauseum. Don't let "them" take away any more. After all, "they" are right if we conduct ourselves in the matters which we are being accused of; if we have learned nothing in our struggles, if we choose to stay home and rather wait for a beer bust than a march, We don't see this problem at other bars in the area, do we?

I believe we can be respectful of the neighbors of the Lone Star and be supportive too ... or will one too many beer busts and the need to make snow yellow without a flake in sight lead us the way of the disco dinosaur?

Name Withheld By Request
San Francisco

Now and Zen

The following letter was sent to David Schneider, Shambhala Publications, Inc., 300 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA. 02115:

I am writing to you to strongly criticize your book, *Street Zen*, about Issan Dorsey's life. As a friend and student of Issan, I find the biography so distorted and filled with misrepresentations, it is difficult to recognize your version of events as the truth. It simply does not correspond with my recollection and experience. My remarks are most applicable to sections of the book that pertain to Hartford Street Zen Center.

First, you have completely marginalized the gay community in your description of that center. As you well know, many gay men and lesbians gave time, energy and money to create a practice place for our community. I am offended and angered that, besides Issan, you only mention heterosexual males as contributing anything to the Zen Center, including Steve Allen, Mike Jamvold and Richard Baker. In fact, because of these particular heterosexual men's closed-minded, dysfunctional and authoritarian attitudes, and their abusive behavior toward gay practitioners, Hartford Street Center was greatly harmed. Also, as a matter of record, we did not ask Issan to come to the center to be our leader. We asked him to come because we wanted to live and practice with him as an equal, since he cared so much about the gay community. Without the contributions and hard work of so many gay people, Issan would have remained in Santa Fe. There are several other such errors in your version of events that reinforce the idea that we regarded Issan as some enlightened master. He did not consider himself that nor did those of us who asked him to practice with us at the Zen Center.

I also find that your book relies heavily on sensationalism — Issan's drag background, drug taking, etc. The fact is, he is not unique in this area. Many gay men have had similar experiences. Your puritanical, heterosexist attitude makes all this activity seem lurid and titillating and you have used it to sell the book. It is very much an adolescent reaction to supposed outrageous behavior. Issan's training, long time practice and compassion are what we appreciated about him — his solid commitment to take care of his own and the lives of those who worked with him.

And lastly, I find it truly ludicrous that a heterosexual male should write a biography about a gay man, exploiting him and the gay community while minimizing Issan's gayness and marginalizing gay men and lesbians. It sickens me to know that you are making money exploiting us.

David Sunseri
San Francisco

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Letters must be signed; anonymous letters will not be published. Please include your mailing address and telephone number so we may verify your letter — this information will not be published.

In order to print as many views as possible, we ask letter writers to be brief. To promote diversity in the Open Forum, we favor letters from writers who do not appear frequently, over repeated correspondence from a single author.

We prefer that letters be typewritten and double-spaced. Handwritten letters will be considered for publication only if clearly legible.

Letters may be edited for length or other appropriate considerations. B.A.R. reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter.

Keeping Up With the Jerster

Because I suspect many of you lie awake at night wondering what Jerry Brown — the former California governor/senatorial candidate/Demo party boss/gadfly and erstwhile presidential candidate — has been doing since he lost the 1992 Democratic presidential nomination, let me give you an update on the life of our city's best-known perennial political candidate. Brown, it seems, is about to

pert on those issues mentioned in the title.

Still touting his \$100 cap idea on political contributions, Brown was asked if his new Oakland headquarters would eventually serve as the launching pad for another political campaign. He answered candidly that "I certainly have a history of running for office," adding that he didn't, however, "have an immediate sense of what campaign might be for me."

His move to Oakland? One longtime Democratic party activist told me this week that "Oakland's loss is definitely San Francisco's gain." Now if Kathleen could only find some way to keep Jerry busy in Oakland from now until November, she might just have a chance against Pete Wilson.

Politics and people

And speaking of presidential wannabes, there was former George Bush sidekick Dan Quayle, using a phrase often associated with gays, telling a crowd of more than 2,000 at a church dedication ceremony in Southern Cali-

Dan Quayle recently complained that while fundamentalist christians are always tolerant of others, they are often the subjects of intolerance.

fornia last week that they must "come out of the closet" to publicly proclaim the importance of religion and "family values." At the same time he blasted what he termed widespread "bigotry" against conservative christians.

Now who, I ask, would possibly be in a better position to know and speak about bigotry? I mean Quayle, like Pat Buchanan, Jesse Helms, Bob Dole, and the rest of their ilk, should qualify as an authority on the subject. Although the former veep was supposedly in the L.A. county city of Lancaster to talk about religion rather than politics, he dropped hints that he wants to run for president, saying he plans to "start looking hard at '96" after the 1994 midterm congressional elections.

Making a direct pitch for the right-wing Pat Robertson vote, Quayle complained to his christian audience that while fundamentalist christians are always "tolerant of others, they are often the subjects of intolerance," adding that "today the only acceptable form of bigotry in our society is bigotry against conservative christians."

Sounding all the world like a fundamentalist Repub-



Jerry Brown as a seminarian.

lican presidential candidate, Quayle railed that "the gatekeepers of our culture almost to an individual are antagonistic. And they have successfully characterized fundamentalist conservative christians as right-wing fanatics, even terrorists and bombers," apparently referring to recent attacks on abortion clinics and doctors.

Incidentally, church officials refused to disclose the fee paid to Quayle, the millionaire heir to a newspaper publishing fortune.

Democrat Jerry Brown and Republican Dan Quayle both running for president in 1996? It boggles the mind.

Former Palm Springs Mayor Sonny Bono, who had announced for the GOP lieutenant governor nomination, has decided to run for Congress in the 44th District instead. Bono says he changed his mind after the incumbent congressman there decided to retire, but those within the GOP will tell you that Pete Wilson wasn't excited about running for re-election with the controversial right-wing Bono as his lieutenant governor running mate. Wilson allies within the party "helped" Bono change his mind.

In Washington state, legislators are considering a bill that would make it illegal to place a foster child in a household with a homosexual or bisexual. The move was prompted by Megan Lucas, who is fighting to retrieve her son, 3, from his gay foster parents.

Say what? In Arcadia, Florida, Bill Sconyers, 23, said he wanted to change his gender, so he cut off his penis with an electric saw last week to "become a woman."

When Democrat Steve Peace of San Diego took his new seat in the state Senate last week, it brought that body to its full complement of 40 members for the first time since 1990. The political makeup of the Senate now stands at 22 Democrats, 16 Republicans, and two Independents.

And how did our representatives in Washington do last year? A recently released Harris poll shows that 54 percent of the American people think the nation will benefit from legislation passed by Congress and signed by President Clinton in 1993; 62 percent feel gridlock still exists; 65 percent said Clinton worked well with Congress; 57 percent gave congressional Democrats good marks; and 48 percent gave congressional Republicans good marks.

Gay and lesbian political activists in New York City say they are "hoping for the best" from new Republican Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, though they point out that he

(Continued on page 11)

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BAY AREA REPORTER JANUARY 20, 1994 PAGE 9

Pussies on Parade

by Rachel Pepper

It started out as just another Sunday morning. We woke up late, had our fix of chocolate croissants and lattes, and perused the weekend paper together. Not content to simply gaze lovingly into each other's eyes while we stirred our frothy foam, we scanned the Pink Pages looking for the chance to do "something different."

Commentary

Then it appeared before us. An announcement about a cat show being held that day! No matter that we already have a house full of cats. Or that the show was taking place in San Jose. Newly equipped with a truck and bolstered by our caffeine high and a tank full of gas, we set out for an adventure in kitty land.

Now you may think us weird to attend such an event, and you'd probably be right. But you put two cat-loving dykes together for long enough and this is the sort of trouble they'll get themselves into. Though we didn't see any other dykes there, the

place was certainly packed, mostly with folks who looked like their cats were probably called Peaches and Precious, not Skin-Man and Junior-Bones. We were, we realized, in a definite minority.

Although we didn't really

It was a white-trash beach party without the sand — every queer's fondest dream and worst nightmare.

know it at the time, cat shows are no new phenomenon. The first took place in 1871 at the Crystal Palace in London. By 1906, the Cat Fanciers Association was formed. This organization, the largest cat registry in the world, produces over 360 cat shows a year, attracting a total of 83,000 contestants. We know this be-

cause we picked up every pamphlet in sight, including "A Guide to CFA Cat Shows," which is full of this type of charmingly useless information.

Biggest freaks

Of course, aside from all the anorexic cats, my studly little girlfriend and I were the biggest freaks there. But I didn't care. It was a white-trash beach party without the sand — every queer's fondest dream and worst nightmare. Dodging some little girls who couldn't help but stare at Catherine's "tomboy" hat (and her in it), I slipped my hand into hers and slurped down a disgustingly delicious hot dog, ready to wander up and down the aisles.

As with any show of this kind, there were many booths set up to display all the merchandise: special mechanisms for ridding cat boxes of poop, castle-shaped cat houses, and every kind of cat toy imaginable. Pedigreed creatures — Burmese, Tonkinese, Siamese, and Javanese — sat primly in their decorated cat cages and waited for their big moment, while their owners fed them baby food and cooed romantically in their little mite-free ears.



Chin up, darling. This fluffy feline was just one of the contestants showing her wares at the Cat Fanciers Association show in San Jose.

(Photo: Catherine Murty)

The main event, of course, was the judging, which took place in several individual rings, where skilled members of the Cat Fanciers Association put the poor creatures through various trials to determine the best-in-show. After tickling each cat with a feather, then spinning the felines around in the air and displaying them in contortionist positions designed to show off their mouths, ears, eyes, butts, bellies, and tails, the winners were announced to much applause from the crowd.

you can bet I'm gonna come back a Harley-riding motorcycle momma. None of this scrapping around in the junkyard to find parts for my beat-up old Honda. Nothing but the best will do for me and my Harley, and I'll roar up and down this city's hills like the pistol-packing brat-packer I truly am at heart.

I'll also keep a mint-green Norton in the garage for when I'm feeling really funky and a little red Matchless that I'll talk to when I'm feeling kind of blue. It won't matter if the Matchless runs or not, just as long as I get to own one. Ah, material possessions, aren't they divine?

If you think all I've been doing is attending trade shows with suburbanites, you'd only be partially right.

The truth is that I may be moving soon (more on that next time), and I've actually been spending many a night holed up in my apartment, excavating my life's belongings. It's been easy to tune out the world, especially since my girlfriend's off trekking around Portugal somewhere.

Still, I'm trying to keep up on all the local news, and the most scandalous story I've heard lately is this: Seems a queer-friendly straight girl

who worked the makeup counter at Nordstrom's here in town was fired for making up a drag queen. Not only that, but the counter in question was selling MAC makeup, a company created by gay men who donate much of their profits back to the gay community.

According to *Odyssey* magazine, Nordstrom's decision to fire this woman, Juliette, was apparently due to some sort of complaint. Pussy Tourette is calling for a drag-cott of the store (call their customer service at 243-8500 to whine), and urges all who use MAC's products to call them (1-800-387-6707) and urge them to sell their wares elsewhere. After all, if you've got to wear makeup, you may as well be politically correct about it! ▼

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GLAAD Media Watch

Down the Drano

by Al Kielwasser

The Johnson Wax company is still sending conciliatory letters to the bigoted boycotters of the "Religious Right." You might recall that the company had been the target of a five-month boycott promoted by the American Family Association and CLeaRTV ("Christian Leaders for Responsible Television"). The American Family Association (AFA) is a heterosexual supremacists group that attempts to censor TV programs that include anything more than defamatory stereotypes of lesbians, gays, and bisexuals. A typical AFA postcard campaign threatens companies with a boycott, warning "you will have to choose whether you want the business of the radical homosexuals or those of us who are concerned with their anti-family campaign."

The boycott against Johnson Wax was lifted on August 13, 1993, after the company orchestrated a meeting with officials of CLeaRTV and the AFA. Forfeiting the moral high ground, Johnson Wax has never bothered to publicly examine (or even defend) the company's decision to come to a "meeting of the mindless" with the AFA, an organization that exists solely to peddle hatred. The company has entirely side-stepped the issue of homophobia.

Sadly, Johnson Wax chose to ignore the lesbian and gay organizations that offered to join with the company in standing up to the censorious AFA when the boycott was first announced. Johnson Wax has since ignored GLAAD's request for clarification of the "strict advertising policy guidelines" that is touted in the letters that Johnson Wax is still sending to AFA supporters.

In his most recent statement on the AFA boycott effort, Johnson Wax spokesperson Thomas R. Conrady continues to appease fundie consumers with the assurance that the company is a "family-friendly corporation" (perhaps "American Family Association-friendly" would be a more accurate description). In a letter to AFA supporters, Conrady reminds these bigots that, with the boycott ended, they can once again enjoy "the same high quality products you've become accustomed to using, such as *Pledge, Glade, Future, Raid, Off!, Windex, Edge, Toilet Duck, Drano, Vanish, Brite, and Shout.*" [Emphasis added.]

Apparently, Johnson Wax has adopted an "if we ignore them, maybe they'll just go away" attitude with regard to lesbian and gay consumers. Let the makers of Shout know that shouting is exactly what we'll continue to do. Write to Thomas R. Conrady, Director, Consumer Resource Center, S. C. Johnson Wax, 1525 Howe Street, Racine, WI 53403-5011, tel. 414-631-2000.

MTV News

The MTV news report for January 14 consisted of inter-

We must confront homophobia in order to cure it! To notify the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation of any defamatory media coverage, or to request GLAAD member information, write to GLAAD/SFBA, 514 Castro Street, Suite B, San Francisco, CA 94114. Call our main office at 415-861-4588; fax, 415-861-4893; South Bay, 408-235-0229; East Bay, 510-273-9146; North Bay, 415-647-3055. ▼

views with several gay men-on-the-street, who were each asked to share their feelings "about the way the gay community was portrayed" in the recently-released film *Philadelphia*. Significantly, MTV did not go the way of most news and talk shows by dragging homophobes in front of the camera in a misguided attempt to provide "balance."

The refreshing assumption underlying MTV's news spot was that gay filmmakers would have a uniquely sophisticated perspective on *Philadelphia*, a movie created for distribution to the mass (and mostly straight) audience. MTV's report tapped into an important point of view that is typically overlooked — or ignored — by television "film critics."

Compliments can be sent to Viewer Department, MTV Networks, Inc., 1515 Broadway, New York, NY 10036. You can also leave a message on the MTV Viewer Comment Line, tel. 212-258-8700.

Film critic or Chia Pet?

And speaking of ignorant film critics ... Michael Medved was a guest on the January 2nd broadcast of *Politically Incorrect*, a talk show that airs on the Comedy Central cable channel. Medved, who is about as witty and interesting as a Chia Pet, is the host of the PBS series *Sneak Previews*.

When *Politically Incorrect* host Bill Maher asked if children "should be taught about alternative lifestyles in school," Medved responded: "until they start doing courses in heterosexuality, they should just leave the issue alone." Medved also lambasted the children's book *Heather Has Two Mommies* and argued that "the [lesbian and gay] agenda is to create more homosexuals."

The Public Broadcasting System (PBS), which is so fond of putting "warning" statements before every program with a lesbian or gay theme, might want to consider attaching a disclaimer to *Sneak Previews*: "The following program is hosted by a homophobic bigot. Viewer discretion is advised."

To criticize PBS's taste in film critics, write to Jennifer Lawson, Executive Vice President, National Programming and Promotions, PBS, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314, tel. 703-739-5000.

There's no place like it ...

Techno-homos now have a new BBS (bulletin board system) in town, "HomeLand," a First Class Client BBS operated out of Oakland, is designed exclusively for sexual minorities and has over 42 available conferences. The BBS is place for cyber-queers throughout the Bay Area to chat with one another online. To reach HomeLand, dial 510-654-8146. Mac users need a 14.4 baud minimum on their modems, and PC users should set their modems to 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, no parity. BBS users should be aware that HomeLand does not accept aliases. ▼

Friday

(Continued from page 9)

didn't mention the word "AIDS" during a lengthy inaugural address that touched on every other NYC problem.

City Hall rumors have Mayor Frank Jordan possibly appointing Police Commissioner Katherine Feinstein to replace District Attorney Arlo Smith, if he defeats the conservative, anti-gay Attorney Dan Lungren in November.

And finally, my thanks to all those who responded to my suggestion over the holidays and sent checks to Coming Home Hospice, especially Bob Ross, Tom Horn, Robert Golovitch, David Webb from the Giraffe, Les from The Patio Cafe, George from Reflections on Polk Street, Glen Gerber, David Kelsey, Mick Ridolfi, and many others. They desperately need the funds, and all of you who sent checks did a good deed. Again, many thanks. ▼

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Community News

Wanna Go to The Joint over A Joint?

'Three Strikes' Proposal Would Affect Medical Marijuana, Too

by Dennis Conkin

Governor Pete Wilson's controversial 'Three Strikes, You're Out' initiative will not just apply to violent felons such as murderers, rapists, and armed robbers, but also people convicted of selling or distributing pot or possessing any amount of peyote, cocaine, or heroin.

Although possession of marijuana is only a misdemeanor in the state of California, it is a felony to cultivate, distribute, transport, or sell marijuana in any amount, whether for personal or medical use. Hundreds, possibly thousands, of HIV-positive Californians now use pot to alleviate wasting syndrome and the effects of chemotherapy.

The initiative would send anyone with one "serious" prior offense to a mandatory state prison term upon conviction of a second felony. Conviction of a third felony would prompt a mandatory 25-years-to-life prison sentence.

Under current California law, individuals convicted for the first time of felony possession of drugs can be given alternative sentencing that does not include incarceration in state prison. But Wilson's controversial initiative disallows those options for anyone with a serious single prior felony conviction, and automatically doubles the sentence for the second crime.

Local Democratic politicians say the measure panthers to voters upset about violent crime.

violent crime, and doesn't really address the social issues that lead to criminal behavior.

"I don't support the initiative," said Supervisor Carole Migden. "It's an election year initiative that is unrealistic, and oversimplifies the issues facing the criminal justice system."

"Someone who burgles a bike as a kid, then leads an honest life for twenty years, would have to go to prison for growing a pot plant or using cocaine," said Dale Gieringer, coordinator of the California chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

The Wilson sentence enhancement initiative ignores whether the initial sentence was suspended or probated, or whether the individual was a juvenile when convicted of a crime considered a felony.

"Californians cannot afford this kind of injustice. Prison spending has increased five-fold in the last decade, yet violent crime has increased. The time has come for a real

'Crime Reduction Act' that would eliminate victimless drug offenses like marijuana cultivation from the criminal system," Gieringer told the B.A.R.

Gieringer said that although California NORML opposes the Wilson initiative, it doesn't necessarily oppose "more carefully targeted" laws that would apply exclusively to violent criminals.

"But on the other hand, if 'Three Strikes' passes, it can only advance the drug legalization movement, since our courts and prisons will be so strained we'll have no choice but to repeal the laws against pot — and probably other drugs," Gieringer said.

The measure will be on the November 1994 California ballot.

State Senator Bill Lockyer sponsored a similar measure last year, except that it would have excluded non-violent felonies like marijuana distribution.

It was vetoed by Governor Wilson. ▼



Brownie Mary.

Sacto Bomber To Be Tried as Adult

Suspect with Possible Connection to Anti-Gay Attacks Now Faces Life Behind Bars

by Margie Covino
B.A.R. Capitol Correspondent

SACRAMENTO — On Wednesday, January 12, under the eyes of some of his alleged victims, 18-year-old Richard Joseph Campos, charged in a string of hated-based firebombings, was ordered by Juvenile Court Judge Talmadge R. Jones, to stand trial in adult court which could lead to possible life imprisonment upon conviction.

City Councilmember Jimmy Yee, whose house was firebombed, was on hand in Juvenile Court, as were Andy Naguchi, President of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), and Dr. Nate White of the N.A.A.C.P., both of whose offices were destroyed, to witness Campos' court appearance. Campos, a self-professed white supremacist, is facing 14 charges, including attempted murder and arson, stemming from five firebombings last summer and fall. In addition to the Yee home, JACL, and N.A.A.C.P. firebombs, there were also firebombs thrown at Temple B'nai Israel and the downtown office of the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, both of which sustained minor damage.

Campos has not yet been linked with a series of pipe bombs that exploded in the downtown area, at least one of which was intended for a gay couple who are highly active in a community organization. Anti-gay hate graffiti

was written on signs and walls outside of a gated condominium complex on 10th and P Streets where a number of gay couple live; swastikas and hate graffiti were painted on signs outside of the River City Metropolitan Community Church; and the Lambda Center received telephone threats during Campos's reign of terror.

Campos allegedly called television stations to take credit for the firebombings in the name of the Aryan Liberation Front, and pledged to escalate the level of violence. It was later established that Campos had been in touch with the notorious white supremacist Tom Metzger's telephone message line.

Campos was arrested one day before his 18th birthday, which placed him under the authority of juvenile authorities. Prosecutors successfully argued that because of the severity of the crimes, Campos should be tried as an adult. Surprisingly, Campos's colorful attorney, Michael K. Brady, joined with the District Attorney to seek trial in adult court for his client.

Brady is gambling that Campos will have a better chance with a jury in adult court, where he can attempt to prove that his client was duped and did not act alone, rather than with a single judge in juvenile court.

Brady also said he had other reasons for forming his unlikely alliance with the D.A.'s office: "I had less than a one

percent chance of winning [keeping Campos in juvenile court]. He was going downtown no matter what." During the hearing the judge agreed with Brady and complimented him on his "lawyerlike" decision—which the judge said was in the client's best interest.

Members of community organizations that have joined together in a hate crimes awareness and support group, including the Lambda Community Center, were relieved that the case would be tried in adult court so that evidence, which could have been held confidential in juvenile court, will be disclosed and made public. White, of the N.A.A.C.P., went a step further. "I think the whole thing should be televised" he told the B.A.R., "so that we can see what goes on in a person's mind who does this kind of thing."

The community hate crimes task force says it will be keeping an eye on Campos' hearings and trial in order to judge whether additional laws need to be on the books to protect cultural and ethnic minorities.

If Campos had been tried as a juvenile, he could only have been held until age 25—about seven years. In the adult system, Campos is facing up to life in prison on 14 counts, including the attempted murder of City Councilman Jimmie Yee.

Campos is expected to make his first appearance in adult court in two weeks. ▼

Community News

S.F. Gays, Lesbian Named to National Service Commission

by Dennis Conkin

Mayor Frank Jordan swore in four members of the lesbian and gay community as members of the 27-person San Francisco Commission on National Service at a Thursday, January 14 ceremony.

The Commission, created last April in legislation introduced by former Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg, is President Clinton's pet "Youth Corps" project. Members will include citizens, non-profit service providers, and city department heads, and will be responsible for implementing national service in San Francisco under the 1993 National and Community Service and Trust Act.

The law establishes Ameri-Corps, a program where participants will be able to receive an education award of up to \$4,975 for each year they provide community service, which may be used to pay for higher education or for vocational training.

More than \$300 million will be available for the program nationally the first year.

Although the program targets youth, the application process is open to citizens who will perform 1,700 hours of full time service in a year, or 900 hours of service a year for two to three years, or full time college students.

Participants also receive a monthly minimum wage cash stipend during their term of service.

"National service is a chance to provide meaningful opportunities to San Francisco's youth, and at the same time deal effectively with problems like AIDS, housing, teen violence, and a wide range of other issues," Joe Van Es Ballesteros said.

Commissioner Lauri Irving, a lesbian and African-

American activist, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that her presence on the Commission "is kind of an extension of what I already do."

Irving, who serves as Commission secretary, was appointed by Supervisor Terence Hallinan. She is a founding member of Lesbians And Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action, an instructor in the city's jails, and a well-known criminal justice rehabilitation advocate.

"I hope that it helps creates a bridge to help youth, and offers them the chance to do community service rather than some of the stupid shit they do," Irving said.

Citizens and legal resident aliens 16 years or older may serve in the program before, during, or after post-secondary education.

With a state Commission to be appointed by Governor Wilson, Irving expressed concern that the state emphasis on using the Community Service funds would be in law enforcement.

"I'm concerned that Wilson's focus on public safety will mean the money will go to police cadets, and there are other ways to address public safety issues than with paramilitary presence on the street," Irving said.

San Francisco is expected to receive an estimated \$5 million as its portion of the funds provided to California, Van Es Ballesteros said, and the emphasis will be for youth service in the community-based non-profit agencies.

High on the list are agencies serving people with AIDS, providing affordable housing, groups that are involved in working with at-risk youth — including gang and violence prevention — and those serving disenfranchised and disadvantaged communities, including lesbian and gay

youth.

"Participants won't be hired to answer phones," Van Es Ballesteros told the *B.A.R.* "We want them to have job experience and an opportunity to get some real skills and provide some real community services."

The Commission is expected to develop a plan for service by February.

Also sworn in as members of the Commission were three gay men: Paul Pendergast, president of the Golden Gate Business Association; political consultant Jim Rivaldo; and Mike Frederickson, a management consultant who has worked with Shanti Project and other groups. ▼



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Promising Treatment For Hepatitis D Cases

United Press International

BOSTON — High doses of a synthetic form of the virus-fighting protein interferon show promise in treating a severe and rapidly progressive form of the liver disease hepatitis, researchers said Wednesday, January 12.

Federal investigators said half of 14 patients with chronic hepatitis D who were given large amounts of interferon alfa-2a for 48 weeks improved markedly, and it appeared the improvement continued in five patients for up to four years after treatment stopped.

However, researchers from the Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases reported in *The New England Journal of Medicine* that lower doses of interferon were not as effective, and relapses were common after treatment was halted.

Hepatitis D affects about 70,000 people in the United States and requires a co-infection with another form of the disease, hepatitis B, in order

for the virus that causes the disorder to reproduce. It is spread through sexual contact and contaminated blood and needles.

In an editorial accompanying the study, Dr. Adriano Di Bisceglie of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases said patients with hepatitis D are significantly more likely to have cirrhosis and liver failure and require liver transplantation than patients with hepatitis B alone.

The study involved 42 people who were divided into three groups. One group received three injections of high-dose interferon weekly, a second group was given low doses, and the third group received no treatment.

No prior therapy has proven effective for hepatitis D. The researchers said future studies should look at whether long-term, high-dose interferon treatment, followed by lower-dose maintenance therapy, can halt progression of the disease. ▼

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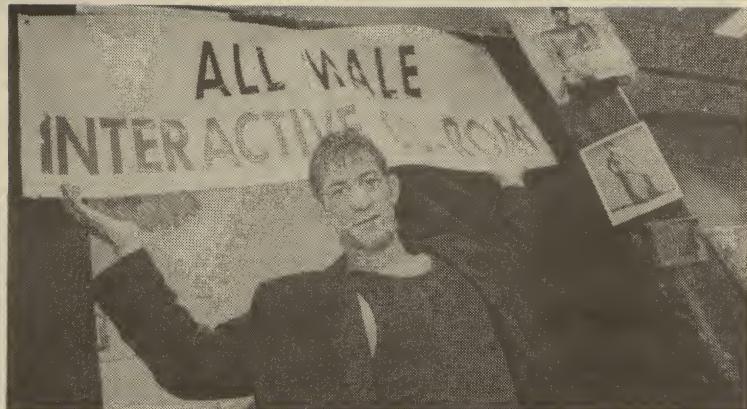
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Community

Porn star Joe Romero in front of his booth at MacWorld selling the first interactive male porn CD. Four Players made an interesting choice of stars for their first title. Joe Romero is a star of a different firmament ... and I do mean firm. Geez! Not content to sit back and let the industry lead him down the worn-out garden paths, Joe is a trail blazer. He's a musician, actor, composer, and now he's the world's first gay male porn star on CD-ROM. Catch Joe's act and anything else you'd like to catch of his on *Dreamlover* from Four Players Productions. —Kate Bornstein

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

**Make Your Hard Disk Harder:
Porno Comes to the Computer**

by Kate Bornstein

MacWorld 1993 at Moscone Center: a glorious display of technological advances in the Macintosh world of computing. It was Nerd Paradise, and I am nothing if not Queen of the Nerds. Laid out before us were the products of some of the most brilliant minds of the computer industry. While there were literally hundreds of items on display that would help a

person compute better, there

were surprisingly few applications for simply enriching or enjoying life. There were two gender-specific exhibits, and interestingly enough these were two of the few products designed specifically to enhance quality of life.

First was Women's Wire, an inexpensive electronic bulletin service board for women with features like live chat space, forum discussions on health and politics, a lesbian section, and on and on. I've just received my account on Women's Wire, and I'll be writing a review of the service soon. If you want to get a jump on it, and order your free software now, call (415) 615-8989 (and tell them the B.A.R. sent you!)

But while Women's Wire was on display on the main floor (albeit sharing a booth with a company whose unfortunate slogan was "My Disk Is Bigger Than Yours"), I had to look high and low for Four Players Productions. They were nowhere in the main display areas. I finally found them in a room discreetly marked, "Adult Materials." Four Players, it seems, has produced and released the world's first gay male interactive CD-ROM porn title: *Dream Lovers*, featuring Joe Romero. This is a lot bigger news than it might seem at first glance.

Whistle while you work

Let's start with definitions. A CD-ROM is one of those shiny silver disks like you listen to music on (compact disk), but this one can hold a lot more information that can subsequently be read (Read-Only Memory) and played by a computer with a compatible drive. It means you can now play movies on your computer screen, and in the case of *Dream Lovers*, you can play porn at your desk.

Computerized pornography has been around for nearly two years, starting with a straight porn title called *Nightwatch*. Today, there's even a magazine out dedicated to the industry: *Future Sex*, a slick rag laden with sadly predictable ads for phone sex lines, computer sex lines, and sex on both disk

and CD-ROM.

I spoke briefly with the executive producer of Four Players Productions, Ms. Bhanu Grover.

"Porn legitimized the VCR," said Ms. Grover, "and it will do the same with CD-ROM. The VCR brought porn into the household. CD-ROM technology is going to bring porn everywhere. The possibilities are limitless because of interactivity factor, which you don't have on video cassette."

What's the difference?

Let's take a closer look at CD-ROM interactivity, using a porn disk as an example. Turning on the computer, you get the main screen. First off, you're offered a choice of players: with whom do you want to get it on? You make your selection, and off you go! After the two main characters have met (with various degrees of fondling and caressing), the action pauses, and we're offered a choice again: what do you want them to do next? Fuck? Suck? If fucking, how? Once you've made your choice, the players obligingly proceed with your chosen delights.

Whoops! Missed a part, or just wanna see it again? No problem, with CD-ROM technology, you can easily access any selection on the disk without having to go through tedious fast forwarding or rewinding.

I was curious as to what made Grover select gay male titles for her first porn effort.

"I was really into gay erotica, and it shocked me that no one else was doing it," she said simply. "After a few more gay male erotic titles, I want to come out with a CD sampler for women, priced at around \$10. Women have been buying *Dream Lover*. Middle America is buying it!"

What's that about? I asked. "It's about time" she answered with a grin.

I got a lesson in economics. "Producers of adult fiction titles have the money," Ms. Grover explained. "That's how the industry will take off. It's in its rudimentary forms, and people want more interactivity, but that will be here within years. I wanted to

produce a title on my own. I wanted to get in on the ground floor, and I frankly wanted the control."

I asked Grover how she felt about being set off in an "adult pavilion."

"I like it," she was quick to replay. "I agree with it. I don't want anyone under 18 around here. I'd like better signage and advertising."

What has Four Players got planned for the future?

"I want to do lesbian titles," Grover said. "Not the phony lesbian titles made for straight men; I'm gonna use real lesbians, and a wide ethnic mix. I want our titles to reflect the way the world is. I'm a feminist; that's how I think."

Did homophobia come into the picture here at Mac-World? Apparently not.

"Some people walk away very quickly, but for the most part people embrace us," said Ms. Grover. "I think that's because we're here in San Francisco. The gay community has really embraced me here. They were really excited the day we opened the booth. Everyone was laughing that it was started by a woman."

And what's the future of the technology?

"The problem today is that people don't see the computer as working *with* us to improve our lives. A lot of people have their computers just sitting at their office. Our kids will be able one day to understand this, and use their computers to improve their lives. They're not afraid of it."

For more information, write to P.O. Box 30052, Philadelphia, PA 19103. ▼

Millennium Online Approaches: Gay-Friendly BBS Keeps Growing

by David Batterson

Millennium Online, a new national online service, was launched last year in Florida and continues to attract new subscribers on a daily basis. Operated by Millennium Global of Clearwater, Florida, the new computer information service is not gay-owned, but it's definitely "gay-friendly."

According to Senior Account Executive Sandra Fidale, "20 percent of the sales force is gay or lesbian. I myself am out and my spouse is recognized by Millennium at all corporate functions as what and who she is: my spouse."

Fidale added that "to the best of my knowledge, Millennium Global was one of the first businesses recognized by the Human Rights Task Force [HRTF] of Tampa Bay. Millennium Global was in the first issue of the *Buyout Handbook* published by the HRTF."

The online service, similar to PRODIGY, CompuServe, GEnie and America Online, offers a variety of features including electronic mail and message forums, news, and financial information. In addition, there is buying and selling of real estate, discounted

credit cards, real-time ("live") chatting, interactive games, shareware downloads, local access numbers, and access to The Internet.

"The Internet doubles in size annually and now links over two million computers serving some six million users," said Vinton Cerf, president of the Internet Society. "When electronic mail interconnects are taken into account, nearly 20 million users conduct their business from labs, homes, and offices over the Internet."

There is no surcharge for 9600-bps modem access, as with most other major online systems. While 2400-bps modems are still the most popular, high-speed (9600 to 28.8K-bps) modems are selling in record numbers.

The magazine *10 Percent* offers a Gay and Lesbian Business and Service Directory that defaults to the member's area code, makes selected articles available online, and sponsors and hosts a gay forum on Millennium Online. Next the magazine will join with the gay/lesbian support services and risk management organization Life Management to bring something new to the service: Network Ten, an information resource designed by gay and lesbian

professionals to confidentially meet the needs of lesbians and gay men, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, from their private homes and offices.

Its commitment to AIDS

In addition to the gay forum, Millennium Online provides online HIV/AIDS counseling through the AIDS Coalition, a PLWA forum that includes an online newsletter.

The service provides complimentary advertising internationally for any non-profit AIDS organization, and supplies daily AIDS updates from a variety of resources on both legal and medical issues. When Millennium Online officials appear at trade shows, they pass out small black packets that bear a likeness of a floppy disk, and the words "WE HOLD THE FUTURE" printed on the back. Inside are LifeStyles condoms, donated by ACP (AIDS Coalition of Pinellas). The promotion has generally been received favorably.

The popular Shocking Gray catalog is also online, with selected photos and interactive customer service capabilities. Shocking Gray also distributes Millennium Online's brochures, and will place Millennium Online in

their future catalogs.

Millennium Online offers Community Spirit's long distance calling program to their membership, and will be a resource for Overlooked Opinions in future polls. In addition to online services, Millennium Global donates two percent of all corporate profits to the AIDS Coalition, and accesses all telecommunications products through the Community Spirit program.

Since Millennium Online has corporate sponsors, this allows the company to charge less than comparable services. Users pay \$10 a month plus 10¢ per minute for unlimited access to all services including The Internet. E-mail messages are unlimited, and include free return receipts, sound, graphics, and choice of onscreen fonts.

For more information, contact Millennium Global, Inc., One Corporate Drive, Suite 119, Clearwater, FL 34622; (800) 736-0122, (813) 572-0122, FAX: (813) 571-1183. ▼

[David Batterson of Portland, Oregon writes about computers, online services, and gay/lesbian subjects for various newspapers and magazines. Send e-mail to him via The Internet: dbatterson@mcimail.com.]

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California News

Quake

(Continued from page 1)

On the other hand, activities chief Cyril Ochab said he was "very happy" that the only damage at the Chris Brownlie Hospice occurred when a picture fell on a patient's head. And although the other hospices and clinics operated by AIDS Healthcare Foundation "were fine ... nothing major except putting a crimp in our ability to serve people," the Valley Clinic did sustain water and some building damage, according to spokesperson Keith Malone. Other businesses such as Jewel's Catch One Disco had already been refitted and brought up to earthquake code, but its owner, Jewel Thais-Williams, said her mirror-walled Baldwin Hills home suffered extensive damage.

Perhaps the most extensive damage was done to the nervous system, although lesbians and gays such as psychotherapist Susan Imbert rushed in to volunteer their services at shelters or over reconnected telephone lines to frightened and frazzled victims. And lesbians and gays in law enforcement and emergency services worked tirelessly to restore Los Angeles to working order. And openly gay city assistant mayor Mike Keeley, responsible for finding the money to "turn L.A. around," will no doubt have his responsibilities expanded.

Some things don't shift

But if the city is to pull out of its billion dollar troubles



Not a messy writer's apartment, but our own Karen Ocamb's abode post-quake.

(Photo: Karen Ocamb)

quicker than most people expect, it will be because of the spirit of cooperation evidenced during its darkest moments. Take the case of this reporter's small West Hollywood apartment complex: three gay and two non-gay men worked with two non-gay women and this lesbian to rescue and comfort an 87-year-old non-gay neighbor, check the 1930s structure, shut off the gas after a leak

was detected, and help with panicked animals, including concern for my briefly missing Jack Russell Terrier — who was found and turned into an animal hospital by five Latinos. We become an instant family until the power was turned on, very late Monday night, and our independence was restored.

Unlike the earth, our human bond will remain intact. ▼

Health Briefs

Phase 3 Trials for AIDS And Breast Cancer Drugs

by Lidia Wasowicz UPI Science Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The Liposome Company, Inc., a biotechnology firm, announced at an annual life sciences conference Wednesday, January 12, it will begin pivotal, latter-stage testing of promising AIDS and cancer drugs.

In addition, Charles Baker, president of the Princeton, New Jersey, company, said Liposome's drug against life-threatening fungal infections is expected to get marketing approval in several European countries by the end of the year.

Baker said in an interview, "We are excited to have in or entering Phase III clinical trials three promising treatments for cancer and AIDS-related diseases."

These include:

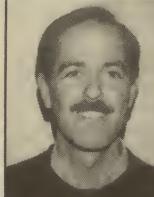
• ABLC as treatment for a variety of fungal infections, which pose a lethal threat to patients with compromised immune systems, such as those with AIDS or transplanted organs. Early tests indicate the drug is more effective and safer than current therapies.

• TLC D-99 as therapy for metastatic, or spreading, breast cancer. Initial trials suggest the drug can increase the efficacy and decrease the toxicity of doxorubicin, one of the world's top selling cancer drugs, which can cause life-threatening heart damage and other serious side effects.

• Maitec as treatment for the incurable, lethal bacterial "MAI" infection that strikes up to half of all AIDS patients. Preliminary findings show the new drug can reduce symptoms without toxicity. ▼

Streisand Creates Kelly Breast Cancer Institute

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS — (UPI) Entertainer Barbra Streisand has donated \$200,000 to establish a fund at an Arkansas hospital in memory of President Clinton's mother. The Virginia Clinton Kelley Breast Cancer Research and Education Fund was being planned when Kelley died last week of breast cancer. ▼



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HIV News

HIV

(Continued from page 1)

ed in both blood serum and urine, but not all individuals with antibodies to HIV in their urine seroconvert to HIV positive status and later develop AIDS. Antibodies against HIV detected in the urine of individuals who do not seroconvert to HIV positive status disappears several months after exposure."

Robeson told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "A key component of an individual's ability to fight-off HIV infection centers on how robust their cell-mediated immune response is."

Cell-mediated immunity

Cell-mediated immunity (CMI) is an immune response mechanism in which T-helper cells (CD4+), killer T cells (CD8+), and macrophages selectively recognize and kill specific cells that are infected by HIV or other virus, and then eliminate the virus from the body. In contrast, a humoral immune response involves the production of specific antibodies that can neutralize virus particles or bacteria in the blood.

In an investigation of five HIV-negative individuals who had recently been the receptive partner in unprotected anal intercourse with an HIV-positive individual at least twice — but who remained seronegative for at least ten months after the study was initiated — the cell-mediated immune response of each of these individuals was significantly elevated, relative to homosexual and heterosexual HIV-negative individuals who did not engage in high risk sex (M. Clerici and others, *Journal of Infectious Disease* 165: 1012-1019 [1992]). CMI was measured by the extent of interleukin (IL)-2 production in peripheral blood mononuclear cells from all five individuals, in response to fragments of HIV virus coat proteins as studied in cell culture. IL-2 is essential for stimulating proliferation of T-cells that recognize and kill cells infected by viruses.

Evidence of seronegativity, but urine test positivity, have occurred in other instances: health care workers accidentally stabbed by needles used on HIV-positive individuals, IV drug users, and steady sex partners of HIV-infected individuals.

Bolstering CMI

What steps can ordinary individuals take or physicians recommend to elevate cell mediated immunity, either to reduce the risk of infection in seronegative individuals accidentally exposed to HIV, or more effectively fight virus proliferation in seropositive, asymptomatic individuals?

Scientists have not yet stumbled upon effective methods of dramatically manipulating CMI, but parts of a hopeful picture seem to be coming into view.

A new and important hypothesis that enjoys popularity among some prominent AIDS researchers, but which has not met with universal acceptance, focuses upon the interplay between two mutually antagonistic T-helper cell responses, Th-1 and Th-2, and how physiological dominance of one or the other has a dramatic effect on immune response mechanisms; and consequently, the clinical course of AIDS infection (discussed



Calypte biomedical, which invented the HIV urine test that seems to indicate that some people can shake off HIV.

(Photo: Judi Parks)

fragments of the HIV coat protein gp120, as measured by IL2 production and T-cell proliferation. Addition of IL12, in vitro to these cells triggered production of IL2 and interferon gamma, important stimulators of cell mediated immunity (M. Clerici and others, *Science* 262: 1721-1724 [1993]).

In another study, Clerici and coworkers reported that low dose immunization of seronegative volunteers with gp160 candidate AIDS vaccine resulted in stronger T-helper cell immunity than in natural infection. Antibody responses were transient or nonexistent (M. Clerici and others, *Eur. J. Immunol.* 21: 1345-1349 [1991]).

The Western Blot urine test

The Calypte Biomedical Corporation WB Urine Test is expected to get FDA approval later this year. Robeson hopes that the urine analysis test will become significant in identifying individuals who are not HIV seropositive but have antibodies to HIV in their urine. This provides a quick mechanism of identifying HIV exposed but uninfected individuals in which to study and characterize the CMI response, and should contribute to the further understanding of the pathophysiology of AIDS in infected individuals.

The urine test may also prove invaluable in determining the HIV status of infants born to mothers who are HIV-positive. Normally the serum status of infants is impossible to determine for as long as 15 months after birth because of passively contributed maternal antibodies against HIV. The WB urine test is an early indicator of transmission of HIV from mother to child (G. Bauer and others, *Lancet* 340: 559 [1992]). It may be possible to quickly assess whether antibodies found in the infants are their own or of maternal origin. Discussing experimental data not yet published, Robeson stated that "the diagnostic difficulties associated with the serological status of infants due to maternal antibodies does not extend to the urine of the infants." He implied that antibodies of the mother are not found in this body compartment. ▼

Underworld Outlaw Blues

by Michael C. Botkin

When Biaxin was belatedly approved as a treatment for MAC (Mycobacterium Avium Complex, the deadly wasting syndrome) a few weeks ago, I called up my friend Brian to congratulate him. Brian is a reluctant drug criminal, driven into the underworld of non-prescription medication in order to stay alive.

"Your drug's been approved for your use," I cheerily told him. "Now maybe your insurer will pay for it, and you won't have to swap for it in Dolores Park."

Commentary

Brian wasn't encouraged. "A little thing like an FDA approval won't make my insurer cough up bucks automatically," he said glumly. "They'll find some other reason to deny it, and I'll be swapping 'horsies' for Biaxin until its price drops or I croak. It's obvious which they're betting on."

("Horsies" or "Blue Horses" is Acyclovir, lovely if lardish robin's-egg blue capsules bearing the same distinctive Burroughs-Wellcome unicorn found on AZT. A powerful anti-viral developed for herpes, it's even more expensive than AZT or Biaxin and commands a good street price.)

His insurer refused to pay for Biaxin because it's expensive and, until recently, "experimental" as a treatment for MAC, although officially approved for other uses. Because of its newness and expense, it isn't covered by any federal or state government programs, like MediCal. The manufacturer makes some available to patients who fit the profile of their "compassionate access" trial — Brian did not.

He acquires the denied drug — which costs about \$300 a month, or approximately half his fixed income — by selling his generously supplied Acyclovir ("I halved my dosage a year ago and never told my doctor or the drug store. It was just piling up, and I had to unload it — use it or lose it — before it expired") and using the proceeds to purchase Biaxin. Sometimes he can arrange a direct swap if an exchange rate can be agreed upon. "It's kind of like the competition between the dollar and the yen, or the mark and the franc," he explains. "You just have to figure out, in a given week, how many horsies equal how much Biaxin."

Fortunately, Brian used to work for a brokerage firm and can easily calculate and track such fluctuations.

Well-informed non-consent

"I'd really rather just get the stuff over the counter at Walgreen's like everyone else," he said. "But I'm not going to sit on my hands and wait for them to figure out that I need this to stay alive. Why should I trust the corporation which denied me 'compassionate' access or count on the government to keep them in line? Look at how the researchers were treating their 'subjects' in those radiation

experiments in the '60s — like animals, like guinea pigs! What sane guinea pig nowadays would believe anything they read in an 'informed consent' agreement?"

His last comments, I knew, referred to his "off-label" use of d4T, the new wonder nuke. For this treatment he did qualify for the "compassionate access" trial, but only by lying about his treatment history and faking some key blood work. ("Very simple actually. I got an HIVer friend — one with compatibly degenerate stats but okay on the vital liver functions — to keep my appointments at the lab.") Furthermore, he took only half of his assigned dose, preferring to use a smaller amount ("less side effects that way") and stockpiling the rest for future use or resale.

This sort of behavior drives the researchers and manufacturers crazy. It distorts the data and opens up all sorts of sticky liability issues. By their standards, Brian is too risky to enroll; his quirky liver might blow up on its own and make the drug — suspected to be liver toxic — look bad. And any "subject" who fails to comply with the prescribed levels of treatment is diluting the data, arguably delaying the new drug's approval and thereby limiting general community access to it.

"I'm not going to sit on my hands and wait for them to figure out that I need this to stay alive."

Brian acknowledges the damage, both scientific and social, but remains unswayed by it.

"It's not my fault that their greed and stupidity and refusal to treat their 'subjects' like people lead to this situation," he said. "I don't see why I should just die in solidarity with the majority of PWAs that they'll either cheat out of a chance at it or coerce into taking a toxic double-dose. If it's a choice between my life and their clean data, I know which I'll make!"

Feeding criminals

It is a sad fact, well-documented by the crusaders in the War on Drugs that deviance is contagious and progressive; that even minor alienation from society feeds upon itself and encourages ever greater degeneration; that indulgence in supposedly trivial substance abuse inevitably leads to "harder drugs." So it has proved with Brian, who has progressed from Biaxin swapping and D4T underdosing to daily narcotics abuse.

"You know, Nancy Reagan said that even casual users of marijuana damage the fabric of society because they feed the criminal underground when they buy it," I once taunted Brian, a one-time Young American for Freedom who now smokes dope



to counter nausea, gain weight, and feel good."

"As far as I'm concerned, she was supporting the 'criminal underground' when she 'entertained' Frank Sinatra at intimate luncheons," he answered. "Besides, I never buy dope. My 'Potrero Platinum' home-grown is as good as the best Hawaiian or Humboldt," he boasted. His two years at a state agricultural college growing seedlings had taught him how to optimize plant strains, a skill easily transferred to cannabis cultivation.

He paused in his response, I suspect, to take a toke of his "therapy." "I mean, here's a treatment that's cheap, easy to use, and has no appreciable negative side effects (at least

if you take the trouble to eat it instead of smoking it, which I don't). Not only will my insurer not pay for it, but technically, it even isn't legal!"

"You could get Marinol if you wanted to stay legal," I reminded him.

"Marinol is to dope what aspirin is to morphine," he retorted. "You can barely notice it, even in huge doses. And you forgot to mention Megace, the wonder steroid that gives you the appetite of a pregnant woman — and also her tits."

Megace acts like a sex hormone and does tend to encourage secondary female sexual characteristics as well as impotence. For some reason it's not real popular with PWAs.

"Well, they keep talking about legalizing marijuana for medical uses," I consoled him.

"If that happens, and Biaxin becomes available, and sooner or later they'll approve d4T, then you'll be fully legal again at last before the year is out — if you live that long."

"Nah, I doubt it," he answered with characteristic pessimism. "By then I'll have some new and improved opportunistic infection, or I'll have burned out on the d4T, and whatever I need I'll have to get on the underground or by bending the rules." There was another telltale pause. "I'm resigned to living as an outlaw." ▼

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Obituaries

Bruce Alexander

April 3, 1959-Nov. 12, 1993

Bruce passed on in his hometown of Sheridan, Indiana. His most recent residence was San Francisco.

He is survived by his parents, Maggie and Rusty; sisters, Cynthia, Kathy, Lori and Becky; and brothers, Greg and Mike. He will also be remembered by Don, Doug and Richard, and many loving friends.

He was active in Shanti, the AIDS Foundation and Project Open Hand. He had been a sergeant in the Marine Corps 1976-1982.

Memorial services were held in his

home town on November 16, 1993. Any donations may be made in his name to any children's AIDS charities. ▼

Jim Andersen

1949-1993

Jim passed peacefully on September 29, 1993, at General Hospital, San Francisco, without having to endure a long illness.

Jim loved San Francisco and had been here most of his adult life as one of its more colorful residents. Jim's biggest hobby was collecting just about everything, in a style unique to Jim. Jim was one of the privileged few

who had the wonderful life experience of moving to San Francisco in the 1970s. He literally experienced "Tales of the City" and much more. He was also known as one of the Trocadero Disco Dinosaurs who thought of the Trocadero and dancing as a spiritual experience.

Jim will be fondly missed by those who knew him, and San Francisco seems a bit less without him. San Francisco has definitely lost one of its cherished character residents. Those who knew him now say, "Jim — now you can truly fly!" ▼



Rob Andrasko

Oct. 20, 1954-Dec. 10, 1993

Several universes lost the light of a brilliant star when our friend Rob went nova. After growing up in Pittsburgh, Penn., and doing a short stint at Antioch College, he came to UC Berkeley in the early '70s to complete his BA in architecture.

He was an early activist in Berkeley's gay liberation movement. Talented in many fields, he approached life on a grand scale, brightening the world with his paintings, sculpture, graphics, ceramics, orchids, landscape design and sharp wit. He was a front runner in all his endeavors.

While teaching interior design at the SF Academy of Art, he was invited to design the rooftop conservatory for the Designer Showcase home, and *Architectural Digest* featured one of his landscape designs in Marin County. He was loved by his students and friends for his open and loving heart. An incurable romantic, he quickly captured the hearts of his loved ones with his endless stories. Rob leaves behind a large circle of family and friends. He will be dearly missed by his colleagues at the SF Orchid Society, Ruby's Pottery Studio, and the SF Academy of Art. ▼



Eric Jazmen

September 14, 1956 - January 1, 1994



Artist • Friend • Activist

In 1989, when AIDS Dementia was not being discussed openly, Eric started a project, "I Still Am", to educate the public, doctors, caregivers, and their families about AIDS Dementia through a humanizing and caring approach, in the hope of overcoming the

fear and denial associated with Dementia. The project's videotape is now being used by over 400 organizations in five countries. Although focused on

Dementia, the message "I Still Am" gives hope to those with AIDS who need to affirm their own selves, and in doing so gives a deserved dignity to those afflicted.

And for all those who have gone before.... they still are....in the hearts and minds of those who remain....precious memories of life and time's passing.

There will be a celebration of Eric's life in San Francisco on the last Sunday in April.

For information call: 922-1933

Lady Bobette

Miss Gay San Francisco

1990

1959-1993

Lady Bobette died gracefully at her

San Francisco home on the eve of Christmas. Bobette vied for and won the title of Miss Gay San Francisco, 1990, a year in which she worked continuously for the gay and lesbian community. She was one of the top entertainers in the area of female impersonations, often performing to SRO crowds when she did her rendition of Patsy Cline. She was elegant, sophisticated, charming, a trend-setter, and most importantly, Bobette was stunningly beautiful.

"She" had a private life, too — filled with many wonderful co-workers and friends from the UCSF Accounting Dept. Lady Bobette had many, many friends, and while she cherished them all, she was especially endeared to her two sisters-in-real-life, Kitty Glamour and Dana Taylor. The three of them were inseparable. They were friends. They were sisters. They were family.

Lady Bobette is also survived by her partner of many years, Peter L.T. Messina. Her ashes were interred and returned to her birthplace in Michigan. A memorial cocktail party will be held at a date in the late spring, as per her last request. It is the end of an era — an era where beauty and sophistication reigned even higher than being empress or grand duchess! Rest in peace, Bobette. ▼

George R. Garcia

Sept. 18, 1965-Jan. 9, 1994

George died of respiratory failure due to AIDS on January 9, 1994, at Ralph K. Davies Hospital in San Francisco at age 28.

A resident of San Francisco for 10 years, he was born on September 18, 1965, the son of William Jessie Garcia

and Maria Theresa Berumen. He worked in San Francisco as a counselor for homeless women and children. George was buried January 11, 1994, at Woodlawn Memorial Park in Colma, Calif. ▼

Paul Mitchel Cyr

Sept. 9, 1952-Oct. 6, 1993

Paul Cyr, 41, died swiftly and peacefully of AIDS complications at the home of a life-long friend while on a business trip in New York. He was raised in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and graduated with a degree in architecture from Auburn University. Paul resided in San Francisco for the past 17 years, working in set design for such stores as Joseph Magnin, Macy's, and Wilkes Bashford. Eventually forming his own free-lance company, Public Display, his creative endeavors brought him much satisfaction and even two mentions by Herb Caen. He took great pride in his work, which helped boost the sales of some of his current clients, like Palace and Palms and Pomegranates.

Paul will be remembered not only for his creativity but also for his love for life and his incredible sense of humor. His spontaneity, wit, and practical jokes brought happiness to many, and his patience and understanding gave way to love and inspiration. His smiling face will be missed! For the past ten years, Paul faced his illness with courage, love, understanding, and some anger, leading him on a path of inner discovery, and his journey was an inspiration to many.

Paul will be greatly missed by many friends. He is survived by his parents, Paul and Irene, and his brother and a sister, Ed and Denise. We love you, Paul. ▼

Robert (Bobby) Rios

Oct. 15, 1948-Jan. 3, 1994

Born in New York, Robert moved to San Francisco in 1980. He worked for the University of San Francisco, at which time he met his lover, Vernel. They shared nine wonderful years together. Bobby was a very loving person; he touched so many hearts.

He was very athletic, and he loved figure skating. His favorite sport was running. In 1982, he participated in the first Gay Games. Bobby finished 10 Bay to Breakers, four Gay Runs, and two SF Marathons.

He and his lover relocated to Sacramento in 1984, where he worked for the IRS and the Air Force while attending America River College.

Bobby had a love for SF and the beach at Land's End. He returned to the city in 1990, where he worked for State Compensation Insurance and America Protective Service. He worked so hard to earn his AA degree at CCSF but lost his battle with AIDS before he could finish.

He is survived by his favorite cousin, Vivian; favorite aunt, Carmen; his closest friend, Gloria; his twin brother, Ralph; and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Rios; and a host of close friends that will always remember the good times shared. No services will be held per his request, and his ashes will be scattered in the countryside of Puerto Rico.

Donations are appreciated, and may be sent to his father, Mr. Ralph Rios Sr., at 38500 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont, CA 94536.

A panel will be made and attached to the AIDS Memorial Quilt in memory of Bobby. We will miss you, Bobby. ▼

Richard Ruby

1922-1994

Former San Francisco resident Richard Ruby passed away from lung cancer January 3 at Kaiser Hospital in Oakland, California.

Those who knew the skill and care he lavished on his plants and flowers in his beautiful Berkeley garden feel that Dick is now tilling his heavenly turf with great contentment and joy.

He is survived by his sister, Phyllis, of Los Angeles; two nephews, Chuck and John; also good friends, John, Don, Matt and Dee Dee; and his beloved cat, Fanny. ▼

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Obituaries

Humberto Jose Estrada

Aug. 24, 1964-Jan. 11, 1994

A native Nicaraguan, Humberto came to this country in 1978. He was a simple man and a kind spirit. He stood a striking 6'5" and weighed 175 lbs. Anyone who ever came in contact with him would instantly feel at ease. He was a true gentleman. One of the last of a fading kind.

While not established professionally in any one career, he did have a keen eye for detail. His hobbies included female impersonation, dancing, modeling, and crooning. Most of his energies went to his family, friends and loved ones. He will forever be remembered for his unconditional warmth, affection and love for others, as well as his uncanny ability to "light up the room and spirit" wherever he went.

He is survived by two sisters, one brother and many, many cousins. Farewell *mi vida!* Thanks for all the laughs, good times and long talks. I miss you desperately! Please send any donations to Coming Home Hospice, 115 Diamond St., SF, CA 94114. Any further inquiries may be directed to Guillermo Velez (415) 863-7990. ▼

Richard K. Meyer

June 12, 1956-Jan. 11, 1994

Richard K. Meyer, 37, died of AIDS complications at his home on January 11, 1994. The end came peacefully, with his parents at his side, after a long and valiant struggle with the disease.

Richard was born in Oxford, England, and grew up in Durham, North Carolina. He graduated from Stanford University in 1978 with a degree in urban studies, then worked as a real-estate broker for various companies. After purchasing and remodeling an older structure at 135 Gough St., he and several partners founded Albion House Bed and Breakfast Inn. He served as manager for a time and remained general partner of this enterprise until June 1992, when the inn was sold.

An active Stanford alumnus, he served as president of the GALA association from 1988-1991, and took part in the Stanford Bay Area Juniors. He was a volunteer for Project Inform and for the chamber music concerts at the First Presbyterian Church. He was an avid music lover all his life and an accomplished pianist who loved to play Chopin and Brahms.

He is survived by his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Horst Meyer of Durham, North Carolina, and by his brother, Dr. Christopher W. Meyer of Potomac, Maryland.

A memorial service will be held later in January in Durham, North Carolina. Donations in Richard's name may be made to the Shanti Project, 525 Howard, San Francisco 94105. ▼

Steven Mark Miller

Feb. 25, 1954-Jan. 2, 1994

Steve Miller, originally from Rochester, New York, peacefully passed from this world on Sunday afternoon, January 2, 1994.

Steve worked for many years at UCSF Medical Center as an administrative assistant. He was extremely well thought of and respected. He consistently went above and beyond the call of duty to help others, and no task was ever too menial or monumental to accomplish.

He was a lover of animals and nature. His favorite vacations were spent visiting national parks in the United States as well as in Mexico.

He is survived by his two sisters and their families; his mother, residing in upstate New York; as well as a multitude of friends throughout California.

He will be missed by his co-workers and friends alike. Although we all grieve the loss of our friend, we have fond memories of his fun-loving and generous nature to forever cherish.



Special thanks are due to Shanti Project for the excellent care they took of Steve during his final days. Donations may be made to Shanti Project in care of Steve Miller. ▼

John Connor Morgan Jr.

Sept. 29, 1946-Jan. 7, 1994

John's wish to become an angel came true on January 7, 1994. John fought a very long and brave battle against AIDS. His strength and courage and his incredibly charming personality are just a few of the reasons why everyone John met was impacted by his warmth and character.

John grew up in São Paulo, Brazil, and New Orleans. These two beautiful locations imparted John with a Southern charm and a tropical flair. While in New Orleans John began a 20-year career with Dole foods that brought him to the Bay Area in 1972. He became a home owner by the age of 30 and bought his home on Flood Avenue in 1979. This is the house John loved, and this is where he died.

Many people credit John for coining the phrase "fashion victim" before *Glamour* magazine did. John had a wonderful sense of humor and was always coming up with new expressions to amuse his friends.

John's life will be celebrated for many years to come, and his memory will never diminish. He leaves behind a legacy of love, life and laughter that will inspire his friends and family. Oh, how his laughter will be missed.

There will be a memorial service for John on January 23, 1994, at Fort Mason, Landmark Building A, Conference Room A. (It's the same building as Green's Restaurant.) The memorial will begin at 2 p.m. We will be celebrating John's life and sharing memories. ▼

James Patrick Naughton Jr.

Jan. 23, 1960-Jan. 2, 1994

Patrick died January 2, 1994, following a courageous battle with complications due to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. He was 33 years old.

Patrick was born January 23, 1960, to James Patrick and Mary Naughton in Salt Lake City, Utah. He graduated from East High School in 1978. Soon afterward, Pat moved to Hawaii, later to Australia and finally to Oakland, California, where he lived for ten years. Patrick returned to Salt Lake City in September of 1991.

Because of Patrick's great love for and acceptance of others, he attracted wonderful friends everywhere. Patrick was a people person and was happiest when surrounded by family and friends. He enjoyed cooking, traveling, music, theatre and film.

Patrick is survived by his parents, Mary and James Naughton; his three sisters, Maura (Jim Beson), Eileen (Jerry Smith), and Carrie. He is also survived by many close friends. Patrick will be missed for all he added to the lives of those around him.

Memorial services were held at Holy Cross Hospital Chapel. The family wishes to thank Dr. Kristen Ries and Maggie as well as the other health care professionals that helped to support Patrick.

In lieu of flowers Pat asked that donations be given to the Utah AIDS Foundations, 1406 So. 11th East, SLC, Utah 84105, or a charity of your choice.

A celebration of Patrick's life will be held at the Bench and Bar, 120 11th St., Oakland, on February 13 between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. ▼

Michael John Ostis

Sept. 26, 1958-Dec. 9, 1993

Mike passed away unexpectedly on December 9, 1993. He was born on September 26, 1958, and attended Montgomery Junior College in Maryland, where he learned cashiering. He used this skill as head cashier for Emmett Larkin Company of San Francisco for the past

seven years.

His quest to better his life was a constant goal for Michael. He was a perfectionist in most everything he did. His sense of humor and laugh were "catchy" and uplifting.

He is survived by his parents, Sid and Evelyn Ostis of Las Vegas; sisters, Heidi and Anne; cousin, Freeda; friends, Tim, Ron, David, Larry and Richard of the "group"; Lisa, Tony, Sheila, Caprice, Sharon; Kent; and Kim, plus numerous other friends.

Michael's laugh will be dearly missed by all. And to our "Little Brother," may the peace you were seeking be eternal.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 29, 1994, at 78 28th St. at Dolores at 1 p.m. For inquiries call 824-7833/Tim or 931-3075/Lisa.

Any donations may be made in his memory to Guide Dogs for the Blind and/or PAWS. ▼

Vincent P. Russo

Aug. 20, 1937-Dec. 21, 1993

Our friend Vince Russo died in San Francisco four days before Christmas after a short illness. He was born and raised in Chicago before setting off on his own. He first lived in New York City where he developed his passion for musical comedy, often catching previews of soon-to-be hits. He moved back to Chicago, then on to Los Angeles before finally settling in San Francisco in the early '70s. He was a longtime city employee, having worked at the City Clinic, City College, and the Main and Portola branch libraries.

Vince was a devoted lover of movies — both good and bad — Maria Montez being a personal favorite. He also loved music (especially show tunes), television (*Star Trek* and *Perry Mason*), theatre, art museums and garage sales. He was a lifelong amateur artist who tried his hand at every medium. His travels took him to Europe in his twenties, and there were numerous trips to Hawaii and Mexico later in life. A true Leo, he was always in search of the sun. At age 50, he surprised everyone who knew him by buying a car and learning to drive.

Vince's warmth, generosity and constant good humor will be missed by his many friends and colleagues. He is survived by his mother, Rose Russo of Chicago; his brother, Dominic Russo of Chicago; his sister, Marie Balaze of Florida; his niece, Dawn Russo of San Francisco; and his nephews, Brian and Dominic Russo Jr. of Chicago.

Contributions in Vince's memory may be sent to Project Open Hand, 2720 17th St., San Francisco 94110. A party of his friends is being planned for February. Contact Ron or Gordon at 664-7055. ▼

George J. Reyes

Aug. 23, 1954-Jan. 10, 1994

George Reyes was born in New York City and grew up on Long Island. He returned to Manhattan as a young man and spent many happy years there. In 1982 he met David Mundy, and they immediately began what was to be a 12-year partnership.

As a result of his personal recovery work, George discovered an interest in photography. He and David spent many hours on photo expeditions and working together in the darkroom.

In 1988 they moved to San Francisco, and George soon began to get sick. The last two years were not easy for him, but he never lost his spirit.

George is survived by his parents, Santos and Rose Marie of Newport Richy, Florida; his sister, Deb; his brothers, Kirk and Sandy; his partner, David; the family he created for himself; April, Chris, Andy, George, Steve and Wendy; and many friends in New York and San Francisco.

A memorial gathering will be held on the patio of the San Francisco County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park on Saturday, January 22, at 11 a.m. Contributions may be made to Homecare Companions Inc. or the SF AIDS Foundation. ▼

HIV News

'Sandra P' Dies An Unsung Heroine

United Press International

year of her life to get social security benefits, and then found herself fighting to keep custody of her children, weighing just 60 pounds when she went to New York's Family Court last November. Now, her family is struggling to pay for her funeral.

Known only as Sandra P., she was the lead plaintiff in the case against former Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Louis Sullivan, called *S.P. v. Sullivan*.

She had three children, ages 1, 5, and 7, and kept her identity secret out of fear for them as well as for herself, said lawyer Terry McGovern of the HIV Law Project.

McGovern said Sandra P. fought until nearly the last

The Social Security Administration released new rules for disability benefits that were finalized last July after the Centers for Disease Control expanded its criteria for counting cases in the AIDS definition. ▼

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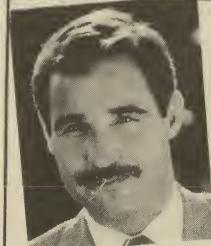
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California News

San Jose's Vasco Has Plans For Sacramento Legislature (And a Good Gay Assistant To Help)

by Marghe Covino
B.A.R. Capitol Correspondent

SACRAMENTO — Back from the legislative recess, Assemblymember John Vasconcellos, D-San Jose, has unveiled both a new chief of staff and a crime prevention package as part of his plan to renovate the state's criminal justice system.

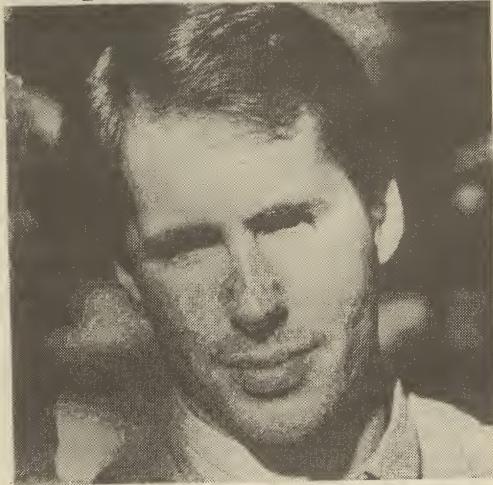
Key to Vasconcellos' legislative success this year will be his new chief of staff, Rand Martin. Martin is no stranger to the halls of the Capitol, first as an advocate and then lobbyist in 1985-86 for the Association of Retarded Citizens-California and then as the first executive director/lobbyist for the gay and lesbian LIFE/AIDS Lobby.

Martin graduated cum laude from Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia with a liberal arts education and a B.A. in Religious Studies. His love for the theater and a two-year stint in Virginia's Lazy Susan Dinner Theater in Woodbridge led to his "starving artist" phase in New York City, which "lasted for about six months before eating became a priority and dictated a career change."

He came to Southern California and started as a staff member for the Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC). In 1983 he attended CSU Long Beach and did a year of graduate course work toward a Master's in Public Administration. He worked through the ranks at ARC, first becoming assistant executive director, and then acting executive director, and then moved to the Capitol as the Coordinator of Governmental Affairs. From there he was tapped to become the first executive director/lobbyist for the newly formed gay and lesbian Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE).

After four years, Martin moved from the LIFE lobby to a job inside the Capitol, shepherding first the AB 101 and then AB 2601 lesbian and gay equal rights legislation for Terry Friedman. He performed a number of duties with Friedman's other-than-gay-rights legislation, such as legislation on ignition interlock devices and residential care facilities licensing categories. He handled press and overall media contacts, interface with bipartisan staff, and negotiation with the Governor's office.

"I did everything possible to get passage of the bills, from drafting to strategy," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I worked with staff in committees, with minority consultants, and networked with both sides of the aisle. It was great experience." Despite all the work, the uncertainty of the legislative process, and the punishing toll of coordinating community support throughout the state, Martin continued his community work with River City Democratic Club as Legislative Chair; as vice-president of the board for a center for the disabled; and as a member of a



Rand Martin, former lobbyist for the Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality and now John Vasconcellos' chief of staff.

According to Martin, Vasconcellos' legislative package includes universal parenting education. "He says we have educational standards for virtually everything else except this most important aspect of people's lives — parenting," Martin said.

Vasconcellos also proposes to appoint a commission to conduct a two-year study on alternative sentencing and establishes a new system of "good time credits" for inmates based on rehabilitation rather than work in prison.

According to Wilson press secretary Kevin Eckery, Vasconcellos has asked to make a presentation in order to outline his proposals at Wilson's crime summit which is scheduled to take place Wednesday and Thursday, January 19 and 20. Reportedly Wilson's response was cool. "I don't know if at this late date there will be an opportunity to have a full-fledged presentation beyond the question and answer sessions that go on," Eckery said.

"John has a vision for California and it will be my job to make it happen," Martin said. "There are plans for legislation on civil rights, juvenile probation camps, AIDS and criminal justice issues," he said.

In a Friday press conference, Vasconcellos called for higher priorities on job training, rehabilitation, and drug treatment programs, as well as a return to a system of indeterminate sentencing. The indeterminate sentence will allow parole boards, probation officials, and judges to have more control over criminals and the amount of time they serve.

Vasconcellos was extremely critical of the "three strikes, you're out" legislation that is mushrooming in the legislature, saying it will cost the state billions of dollars. "I abhor violence but frankly, I abhor more those politicians who pander to their constituents' fear, rather than dealing with it in a constructive manner."

Elliot Currie, who teaches criminology and sociology at UC Berkeley, spoke at Vasconcellos' press conference. "We're rushing headlong at breakneck speed to do things that won't work," he said, referring to "three strikes, you're out" legislation. "We have a prison system which is bankrupting us and streets and homes that are as unsafe as they ever were. We're all angry, all frightened, all scared to death about violence but we have to figure out how to channel those feelings into a strategy that will actually work."

Martin said he will run his staff of seven in a way that is "based on John's vision. He wants to make sure his vision of California is implemented as well as possible. He's taking a different tack — but a more responsible tack on the criminal justice issues. I will also make sure his presence is felt in our own district and that constituents know he's there for them and that they can count on him to deal with their issues as well," Martin said. ▼

Health & Community

ACT UP Golden Gate Meetings are Tuesdays, 7pm. 5848 Castro. Discuss treatment issues, possible actions and recommendations. 252-9200.

ACT UP SF Meets every Thursday at 7:30pm in the Women's Building, 3543 18th St., 3rd Fl. 621-0291.

AIDS Project of Contra Costa Sponsors Hot Sex Workshops, Guys Over 50 discussion groups, and Gay Male HIV-positive Rap Group. For times and locations, call (510) 356-2437.

Adult Children of Alcoholics Gay & lesbian support group meets Wednesdays, 8:30pm, at MCC, Room 104, 150 Eureka St. All are welcome.

Alternative Alcohol Problem Fellowship Tuesdays, 8-9:30pm. 398-6594.

Anger & Conflict in Relationships Eight-week course in anger, aggression, and how to overcome relationship problems. Tuesday eves, 6:30pm, starting Jan. 18, Everett Middle School, 450 Church. 585-5150.

BACW (Bay Are Career Women) "How to Succeed in Business and Personal Life Without Acting Like Men," a workshop facilitated by Nicole Schapiro. Jan. 30, 10am-2pm. \$20-25. 495-5393.

Bay Area Young Positives Support groups, retreats, fun night, referrals and peer counseling for HIV-positive people under 27. 518 Waller. 487-1616.

Billy DeFrank Community Center Winter schedule of classes at San Jose's gay & lesbian community center; women's defense, gays in the Holocaust, film and writing courses. Call: (408) 293-AGAY.

Dignity SF Eucharist every Sun., 5:30pm. Presbyterian Church, 1329 7th Ave. 681-2491.

Free HIV Testing Blow Buddies and AIDS Health Project test free, plus counseling and education. Jan. 21, 10pm-12:30am, 933 Harrison (upstairs from Blow Buddies).

Freshstart Quit Smoking 6-8pm, Tuesdays & Thursdays at St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center, 450 Stanyan. \$24.50. 394-7100.

Gay by the Grace of God Four-week fellowship meetings about what the Bible does and does not say about homosexuals. Jan. 27. 7:30-9pm. MCC 150 Eureka St. 863-4434.

Gay Youth Awareness Training FOCYS, of Peninsula Family YMCA, offers training for educators on gay youth issues. 349-7969.

Kairos Support for Caregivers Workshop on preparing for the later stages of care. Jan. 29. \$35. 861-0877.

Lambda Literary Awards Nominations now being accepted. For ballots and info, call (202) 462-7924.

Lambda Youth Group Support group for les/bi/gay & questioning youth up to age 23. Confidential. Weekly meetings, Tuesdays, 7:30pm. (510) 887-0566.

Manic D Press Seeks submissions of poetry & short fiction for an upcoming anthology. 5-page max., SASE to Manic D Press, c/o Gay/Les Anthology, Box 410804, SF, CA 94141.

Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group volunteers sought to provide emotional support and help with office duties. 863-1581.

NGLTF Monthly meeting, Jan. 26. 6:30pm. The Women's Bldg. 3543 18th at Valencia. 541-5013.

Pacing Ourselves Eight-week support group for health care professionals, Tuesday eves. Kairos Support for Caregivers. 861-0877.

PLUS (Positive Living for Us) Weekend workshops in health care, recovery, benefits, safer sex, and many more topics concerning HIV. Feb. 4-6. Free, but limited to 75 people. Volunteers needed. Register by calling 403-3800.

Rites of Passage Call for entries in film or video dealing with ritualized behavior re: race, sexuality, gender or cultural identity. Deadline: Jan. 30. Mail to SF Art Institute, 173 Clara, SF, CA 94107, attn. Yvain Reid. Include return postage.

SF Network for Battered Lesbians & Bisexual Women Support group starting in January. 281-0276.

Sex, Religion & Politics Rainbow fellowship holds seminars for gays, lesbians and bisexuals about these charged topics. Jan. 20 & 25, at 7:30pm. First Congregational Church, Bradford Chapel, Post & Mason sts. 392-7461.

Shanti Project Needs volunteers to assist Latino people with AIDS. Volunteer training Jan. 29 & 30. 777-2273.

Unitarian Universalists Les/bi/gay transgender & straight allies meet the last Sunday of each month at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 12-1pm after 10:30am service. (510) 228-0323.

Veterans With HIV Support and social group at Oakland VA Clinic. (510) 273-7331.

Women's HIV Clinic 12:30-4:30pm every second & fourth Monday. San Mateo County AIDS Program. 573-2385.

Voices of Pride Sexual minority resource center offers support services to queer and questioning youth 23 and under. (510) 530-8529 or (415) 553-4026.

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LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR
CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO.
956851

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of ROBERT BRADFORD BAUER for change of name. The application of ROBERT BRADFORD BAUER for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that ROBERT BRADFORD BAUER has filed an application purporting that his name be changed to SKY EVERGREEN. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed that all persons interested in the matter do appear before this Court in Department 10, Room 1000, on the 15th day of March 1994 at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. A copy of this Order shall be given to the parties to the application. A copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the date of hearing. Dated this 16th day of December, 1993.

December 30, 1993, 13, 20, 1994.
L-956851

News You
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B.A.R.

City and County of San Francisco Department of Social Services Invitation For Bids

IFB DSS-087: Proposals will be received 170 Otis, 4th floor, until 3 p.m., February 28, 1994, to provide In-Home Support Services (IHSS). IFB to be issued January 27, 1994, after 2 p.m. There is a \$25 charge for each Proposal Package. Contract term 7/1/94-6/30/97. Proposed maximum contract amount \$22.1 million for the 36 month period. Bidders' Conference at 2:00 p.m. 3/14/94 at Dorn Auditorium, 170 Otis St. Contact Anthony Nioco, BOOD, A8088, P.O. Box 7988, SF, CA 94120. Telephone (415) 557-5879.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 182201

The following person is doing business as PLANT ONE ON ME, 3975 B 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114: DAVID IRA FREMLAND, 3975 B 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date September 1, 1988. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed DAVID FREMLAND. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 30, 1993.

January 21, 28, 31, February 6, 1994.
L-182201

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San Diego Postpones AIDS Grove

United Press International

SAN DIEGO — A San Diego City Council committee voted Wednesday, January 12, to delay plans to establish a controversial AIDS memorial garden in Balboa Park.

Committee members said they want to spend the next

four months gathering community input before they move forward with plans to set up the two-acre Living AIDS Memorial Garden.

The garden was approved in concept by the council last November. It is expected to feature a sidewalk lined with

dead trees up a hill to a raised grassy mound, with the fallen trees representing those who have died from AIDS.

The garden has drawn fire from opponents who say they worry the city will be responsible for maintenance costs if the garden is vandalized. ▼

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LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 957629

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of ALISON LI HENG LIANG (Minor) QIN WANG (Mother) for change of name. The application for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that ALISON LI HENG LIANG has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to ALEX LI HENG LIANG. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X on the 14th day of February, 1994 at 9 o'clock A.M. of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 5th day of January, 1994.

January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 1994.
L-957629

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 957549

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of ANTONIO DURAND JACOBS for change of name. The application of ANTONIO DURAND JACOBS for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that ANTONIO DURAND JACOBS has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to ANTONIO DURAND HENDRICKZ. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X on the 14th day of February, 1994 at 9 o'clock A.M. of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 4th day of January, 1994.

January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 1994.
L-957549

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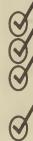
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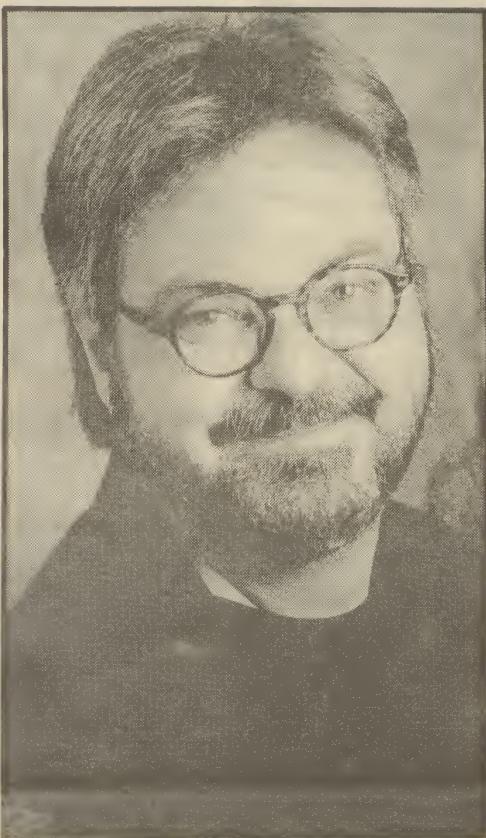


BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

PEOPLE AND PERSONALS

VOL. XXIV NO. 3 JANUARY 20, 1994



Michel Tremblay: "I never talk or write about homosexuality. I discuss homosexuals and write about gay characters."

Michel Tremblay, Canada's High Profile Gay Playwright

Northern Exposure

by Chad Jones

If asked to name one of Canada's leading gay playwrights, most people would be at a loss to come up with even a single name. Most of us "south of the border" don't pay much attention to the goings-on of our northern neighbors. But, yes, there is a leading gay Canadian playwright and his name is Michel Tremblay. Author of more than 20 plays, three musical comedies, nine novels and seven screenplays, Tremblay has received the highest honors awarded Canadian playwrights, had plays produced on and off Broadway and has the daily satisfaction of knowing that at least one of his plays is running somewhere on the North American continent. But despite his considerable success in his native Canada, Tremblay is virtually unknown to U.S. audiences.

One of his most recent works, *La Maison Suspendue* (*The House Among the Stars*), opened earlier this month at Actors Theatre, marking Tremblay's first Bay Area appearance since Berkeley Stage Company performed *Bonjour La, Bonjour* in 1981.

In a recent phone interview from his winter home in

Key West, Fla., Tremblay said his entire body of work is informed by his childhood. Born in 1942 at the height of World War II, Tremblay was brought into a world without men. "I was raised by five women," he said in his thick Quebecois accent. "All the men were at war, so my first reactions to society were through women's eyes. As a

"I write about gay characters, but they're not flags for the gay community."

teenager I refused all male influence: I never smoked, drove a car or drank beer. It's not that I didn't want to be a man, it's just that I rejected completely and without remorse the North American vision of what a man should be. I never had a girlfriend just for appearance's sake, which made life hard in the '50s."

No gay placards

As a gay man brought up

entirely by women, Tremblay said he became one of Canada's first male writers to find favor among feminists. "They feel I do not hate women," he explained. "I always talk about women with warmth and sympathy. When I do not speak of women, I speak of gay men."

Tremblay holds no rancor for the label "gay playwright," but he said, "I never talk or write about homosexuality. I discuss homosexuals. I write about gay characters, but they're not flags for the gay community. I write gay plays for everybody, but I shouldn't say too much because the activists don't like this."

One of the defining components of Tremblay's work is his repeated use of the same characters. Tremblay says he figured out early in his career that every writer ultimately ends up dealing with the same characters, so it made sense to him that once he created a good character he could use him or her again. His stable of characters now numbers between 25 and 30, and many of them have become beloved by Tremblay's fans, who have followed these characters for 25 years on stage, television, in films and novels. "I'm very attached to these characters," Tremblay

(Continued on page 34)

Polyps and Politics: Rosa von Praunheim on Aging and How to Be Very, Very Unpopular

by Brandon Judell

Battling Transvestite

Rosa von Praunheim, the underground filmmaker and grand homo of German gay rights, has just celebrated his 51st birthday, and he's none too pleased about that fact, as he related to the B.A.R. on a recent trip to New York City.

"Turning 50, let alone 51, creates a lot of paranoia. I think a lot of women have that, and a lot of gay men, too," he says. "They're in the same boat. Even though I'm considered good-looking — that's what people say — and I'm active in my work, 50 is still a psychological change. You know a lot of things won't get better physically or psychologically. You will get weaker, and you start to have pains, and you have to have prostate problems, arthritis in my big toe, and polyps in my nose."

"So now in these difficult times, especially in Germany with the neo-Nazis and the crazy world where wars can start any minute, you feel when you get older that you might not have the power to fight back, as I always did when I was younger. I still want to be angry. I want to be active. You start thinking — will I have the power? Will I have the strength? That's frightening!"

"It's a political act to do gay films ... to do openly gay films and talk openly about these subjects," von Praunheim insists.

However, the recent documentary on Tom of Finland, *Daddy and the Muscle Acad-*

my, left him feeling otherwise. Von Praunheim walked out of a screening halfway through. "It's worth discussing why gay people like these fascist symbols and these kinds of Nazi eroticism. It shouldn't be ignored."

He explores this fascination a bit in his next feature (already completed), *My Granny Owns a Nazi Whorehouse*, a true story of a family in charge of a brothel used by the Third Reich as a spy center. His next two ventures include a biography of the German sexologist and founder of the turn-of-the-century gay rights movement, Magnus Hirschfeld, and an autobiographical look at his own life, *Neurosis*.

The latter starts off with Rosa being assassinated and his body stolen. A tabloid reporter in hot pursuit of the story becomes entrenched in von Praunheim's life as she interviews his real mother, with whom he still lives; his real ex-lovers; plus a handful of friends and scads of enemies.

Rancor Against Rosa

Why so many naysayers? Why all this rancor against a middle-aged filmmaker?

"I was in AIDS politics," von Praunheim explains.

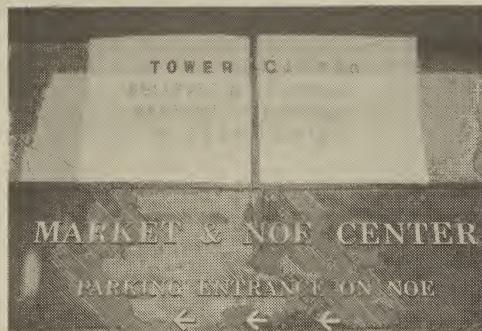
(Continued on page 32)



Rosa von Praunheim: life isn't what it used to be. At 51 he's got prostate problems, arthritis and polyps in his nose.

by Orland Outland

Tower Records: The Final Chapter? There seems to be no grounds for a boycott of the chain. But while Tower President Russell Solomon does personally have a long record of pro-gay hirings and activities, according to current and former employees, he also prefers to leave personnel disputes to his subordinates. It's this hands-off style that has allegedly enabled homophobic middle-management personnel to discriminate without interference from above. While Tower's upper echelons are innocent of wrongdoing, they would still do well to investigate what goes on in the field; for instance, just why do so many of Tower's gay (and straight) employees so strongly dislike San Francisco's regional manager Wayne Ennes?



Is the Tower brouaha a case of the top not paying attention to its middle?

Have a Nice Day — and I mean that. Did you notice the big smiles on everyone's face last week when *Tales of the City* was on? Even nattering nabobs of negativism such as Yours Truly were pollinated

by the feel-good sensations the show left behind. Wasn't it nice to see something you didn't hate on TV? KQED went in three evenings from stodgy manufacturer of lifestyle magazines and cooking shows (and purveyor of cheesy, recycled British sitcoms) to ground-breaking station — shots of naked breasts and deep gay kisses, all coproduced by KQED.



Marcus D'Amico (Michael Tolliver), undulating in his undies.

Interiors for the show were shot in LA. It was obvious they hadn't done the Endup shots on location when you saw that big, clean bathroom. And who was that black drag queen with the grating voice who introduced Michael



Babs Streisand: Queen of all she surveys.

brought a date. A girl date. Babs dedicated a song to Jason, the gist of which song was that the goldiggers had better watch out for Momma.

Another spy told me all about **Richard Simmons'** recent visit to KRON to flog his Deal-A-Meal diet program. Asked off-camera if he was gay, Simmons replied, "I will not answer questions about sex. I will answer questions about food." Asked on camera if he was "too busy for a personal life," Simmons replied, "I'm having an affair with 15 million men and women

Variety says Van Sant's replacement, director Rob Cohen, is also off the project; he recently bailed out to direct a formula action pic.

Egghead's Corner: When asked by *The New York Times* if becoming a U.S. Supreme Court justice had changed her life (duh!), **Ruth Bader Ginsberg** responded, "Indubitably, yes." She then asked non-sequitur, "Have you seen *Orlando*?" before explaining that she was referring to her amazing transformation from nonperson to celebrity. Well, if she liked that movie well enough to reference it, we now know she has at least a partially open mind re homosexuality, eh? Konspiracy Korner: Has anyone ever seen Ginsberg in the same room with her identical twin, Secretary of State **Warren Christopher**?

Marky Mark tells *The Advocate* that **The M Word** made all that up about his hit-

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Miraculous changes: Justice Ginsberg compared her recent "transformaton" to those undergone by Orlando (Tilda Swinton, right) in Sally Potter's gender-bending film of the same name.

around the country." Of course, everybody in America knows Simmons' sexuality, but only he knows that while those fat old ladies who buy his tapes are more than willing to hear the **Sally Struthers** of the diet industry talk about how he used to be fatter than they are, they don't want to hear about his — or anyone's — sex life.



Vaginal "Scream" Davis.

Tolliver at the wet jockey shorts contest? It was **Vaginal Creme Davis**, notorious LA zine publisher, scenester, and celebrite in a cameo role. Up here, a certain former nightclub employee/self-promoter made a fool of himself trying to get cast in *Tales* as "local color," but fortunately for us, he was (repeatedly, vehemently) turned down by the producers.



Gung-ho on Gus: director Oliver Stone

"Will the commercial success or failure of *Philadelphia* affect whether *The Mayor of Castro Street* gets made?" *Entertainment Weekly* asked Oliver Stone. "No. Warners agreed to finance the movie at a certain price." Fantabulous! Though **Gus Van Sant** is off the picture, Stone says, "I fought for him very hard. Warners didn't particularly see him as a studio-director type, though." (You don't say.)

ting someone and yelling "faggot" at her party, to revenge herself for things he said about her in the London tabloid press. The magazine also features a pull-out center-fold of heterosexuality's poster boy. Far be it from me to criticize my betters at *The National Gay and Lesbian Newsmagazine*, but with all the more talented, more attractive, more community-oriented boys who are also GAY, couldn't *The National GAY and Lesbian Newsmagazine* have celebrated one of them instead of this piece of straight trade?

The New Republic's recent controversial article on the gay movement was accompanied by a (fantabulous) unauthorized cover drawing of **Batman** confessing his gay love for **Robin**. *TNR* has now formally apologized to DC Comics for using the company's characters, as the mag puts it, "...in a context that was clearly inconsistent with the way the characters are portrayed in the company's publications and merchandise." Memo to DC Comics: Can you say "subtext"?

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**Bay Area
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Seams, from "Generations," Friday, January 21 at 11 p.m. on channel 9.

Frameline Returns to TV with The Living Room Festival

Back to the Couch

by Alan Frutkin

The Living Room Festival, a collaborative effort between San Francisco Bay Area artists and local PBS station KQED, launched its second season last week on Channel 9. The series, which features works by independent film and video makers, can be seen on Fridays at 11 p.m. for the next 12 weeks.

This year's festival is a lot like last year's, with one difference. Last year, each 90-minute program was curated by a different Bay Area media organization. This year, three local film collectives have combined resources, and their allotted times, to broadcast entries alongside each other. Frameline, the lesbian and gay film collective that produces the Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, has teamed up with Cine Accion and National Asian American Telecommunication Arts (NAATA) to co-present three 90-minute programs.

Theme conscious

"This is an adventurous idea that does something people always talk about," says Frameline program director Mark Finch. "It focuses on the commonality of oppression, on what lesbians and gays share with other cultural groups, and with people of color." To explore these similarities, each of the three programs has been curated with a central theme in mind. The first of these programs, entitled "Generations," airs Friday, January 21 at 11 p.m.

The two additional programs, "Desire" and "Hate," air, respectively, February 25 and March 4.

Most of the works in "Generations" speak to the timeless links—and clashes—that define the term "family," like the show's opening entry, *Intrepidissima*. This Spanish film, directed by Marta Balleto-Coll explores the strained relationship between a fashion-conscious mother who insists on dragging her disinterested little girl shopping for clothes. While *Intrepidissima* conforms to the general rubric of "Generations," several other pieces in the program don't. The most stunning piece in "Generations" is Jorge Furtado's *Isle of Flowers*. But this quick-paced, riveting film has little to do with the concept of familial relationships. It's a searing look at capitalism and how the welfare of livestock is placed above that of indigent human beings.

"It's a stretch of the title," admits Jack Walsh, coordinating producer of The Living Room Festival, but he adds, "we're not necessarily adhering to a central theme here, as much as we're spinning off ideas."

Gay fare

Among the program's gay entries are some moving pieces that also explore relationships between young and old. In *Seams*, Brazilian director Karim Ainouz deconstructs the machismo culture of his homeland. Through interviews with Ainouz's five spinster aunts we see how the

"maleness" eroded in his home and how, in turn, his own femininity developed. The best part of the film is the director's exploration of Brazil's "queer" idioms. For example, the word "viado" means faggot, or deer, and the word "sapato" means big shoe, or dyke.

In *Robert Marshall*, filmmaker Stuart Marshall, who died recently of AIDS, travels to his native Canada to learn about the father he never really knew. This is a short but powerful piece that melds the father's own struggle against heart disease with the son's fight against AIDS.

John Slater's *Touch Me* appropriates television images—in particular a U.S. Army commercial that shows a young soldier returning home and shaking hands with his father—to explore issues around male intimacy.

Out of place?

A gay entry which seems anomalous under the "Generations" moniker is Dawn Suggs' *I Never Danced the Way Girls Were Supposed To*. In exploring misconceptions about lesbians in the African-American community, Suggs' piece has less to do with inter-familial generations than with differences between older and younger black lesbians. Again Walsh admits the titling is a stretch. "It's a very general and loose topic that enables us to look at the subject of generations from all perspectives, whether it be inter-generations, or older and younger generations."

Frameline's Finch agrees: "We're not programming by numbers," he says. Given this stretch, however, some viewers might conclude that the inclusion of Suggs' piece is a bow to multicultural correctness. But Finch denies acquiescing to quotas. "We weren't under any obligations," he says. Finch also says his decision to include Suggs' piece was made in part because of the high ratings the film received from audiences at last year's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, and because "Women of color, and lesbians in general, are making the funniest, and sharpest work right now."

That quality works like Suggs' *I Never Danced* and Furtado's *Isle of Flowers*, seem misplaced under the "Generations" rubric is perhaps the only glaring problem with The Living Room Festival. Nevertheless, others might argue that some of the films that fit easily into the "Generations" category are of questionable quality, namely,

Kimiko Roberts' *Cultural Identity Crisis of an All-American Girl*, which often seems sophomoric, and the show's final piece, *Training to Speak*, a laborious conversation between director Chuleenan Svetilas and her Cambodian-born parents.

But Walsh defends the show's programming. "Everything you see on TV doesn't have to be slick," he says. "The idea behind the series is to show the work of emerging artists next to more established ones."

Programming problems aside, both Walsh and Finch agree that the strategy of three communities pooling their resources in co-presenta-

tions will increase viewership all around. And though Finch admits that for lesbian and gay viewers that may mean sitting through non-gay material, he hopes it will also bring straight viewers in who might otherwise ignore gay-related material. "Perhaps we are speaking to more of a straight audience," says Finch, "but the way it comes together, the whole thing is kind of queer. The end result is very much a queer brew."

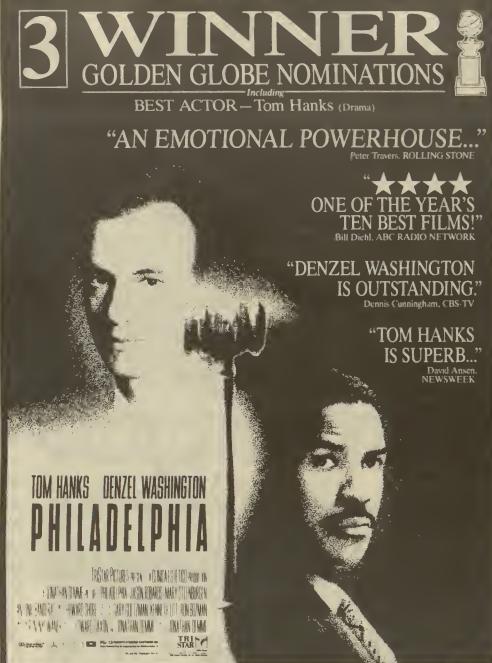
Editor's note: Generations can be seen on channel 9, Friday, January 21 at 11 p.m. Stay tuned to these pages for information about upcoming 'Living Room' programs.

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Film

'I Am My Own Woman' Is Fine Gay History To Survive and Thrive

by Daniel Mangin

When I was a wee twinkie, an old theatre queen in Boston, whilst trying to cop a feel, passed down a bit of community lore: "Gays don't just survive, we thrive. Why? Because we know how to have a good time even when life stinks."

I thought of the now-deceased diva's proclamation while watching Rosa von Praunheim's *I Am My Own Woman*. Von Praunheim's latest is an artsy documentary about Charlotte von Mahlsdorf (nee Lothar Berfelde), a singular transgendered soul who endured a cruel father, the Nazis, the East German Communist Party, and, after the Germanys reunited, threats and an attack by neo-

Nazi skinheads. Constitutionally unable to conform, she defied—with the aplomb of a Quentin Crisp—all attempts to pigeonhole her.

Refining the approach he employed in *Affengel*, his 1990 portrait of actress Lotte Huber, Von Praunheim combines recreated scenes, interviews with the real Von Mahlsdorf, and sequences in which Von Mahlsdorf coaches the actors playing her and her associates from the past. The nicely shot film is a Brechtian affair that maintains its momentum for most of its 91 minutes, faltering only a bit as it reaches the 1980s—with Von Mahlsdorf now a vibrant player in the burgeoning East German lesbian and gay movement.

Lesbian Auntie

Although cursed with a



Charlotte von Mahlsdorf and filmmaker Rosa von Praunheim, a match made in heaven.

lout of a father, Von Mahlsdorf was blessed with an understanding mother (her greatest influence, she says) and lesbian Aunt Luise. Upon catching her nephew dressing up in women's clothing, Aunt Luise hands him sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld's book, *Transvestism*, which recommends that the parents of any boy over eight or nine who prefers girls' clothing and playthings simply accept the fact.

Luise, a female-to-male transvestite, did more: a few years later she comes upon Lothar in the hayloft with a guy, she apologizes and tells them to take their time.

Back home, dad wasn't quite as understanding, threatening to "make a man" out of his son. The father's reign of terror over his family ended shortly after he attempted to shoot his wife, when young Lothar took matters into his own hands. Unlike British filmmaker Terence Davies, whose *The Long Day Closes* documents a euphoric period following the demise of his abusive father, the ascent of the Nazis resulted in new terror. Lothar/Charlotte spent much of the war in reform school.

After a few end-of-the-war escapades—the first of which

finds him about to be shot as a deserter by fleeing Nazi troops—Charlotte becomes part of the restoration crew of an old castle for two years, then works as a "servant girl" for an elderly general. After a year, the two finally make love and Charlotte satisfies her employer in other ways, posing for "she-male" and other diverting photos.

Life Under Kaiser

As the details of Charlotte's adventurous life unfold, one realizes just how clever some of us gay folk have been at surviving. And what a long history we have. From the general, Charlotte learns about gay life under the Kaiser 100 years ago. Besides presenting us with the

enchanting Von Mahlsdorf, *I Am My Own Woman* preserves an even older link to gay days gone by.

Charlotte herself is interested in days past, specifically antiques of the late-1800s. She founded a museum in East Germany that at one time contained 23 rooms of period furniture and accessories. After repeated clashes with the East German government, she gave most of those furnishings away (to avoid surrendering them to the government), but today gives tours of nine fully decorated rooms. Von Praunheim's film grew in part out of a wish to prevent the government of reunified Berlin from annexing Von Mahlsdorf's establishment.

In addition to recounting Von Mahlsdorf's remarkable existence, *I Am My Own Woman* includes visits to old gay haunts, recreations of Berlin Wall-era East German gay life, and interviews about the past and present with lesbians and gays of the former East Germany. It's fascinating history and a well-earned homage to an irrepressible queer spirit. ▼

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'Philadelphia': Big Box Office

Jonathan Demme's *Philadelphia* topped the nation's box office last week with an impressive \$14 million estimated gross at 1,245 screens, studio sources said Monday.

The results for the TriStar release, starring Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington, were better than expected for the first major film to come out of Hollywood about AIDS.

The film's strong per-screen average of nearly

\$11,000 was particularly solid given continued freezing weather in the East. The strong California earthquake Monday may have dampened what would have been robust grosses from that region, which can account for as much as a tenth of the nation's ticket sales.

Because studios have been reluctant to tackle the subject of AIDS, the film's production company, TriStar, decided to open the film slowly in just four theaters on Decem-

ber 22 to allow word-of-mouth and generally positive reviews to boost business. The estimated \$12.1 million take for Friday-Sunday set a record for a January rollout, topping the \$11.1 million *Born on the Fourth of July* grossed in January 1989.

Philadelphia, which will likely earn a variety of Oscar nominations this year, appears destined to make at least \$50 to \$100 million in domestic grosses while in major circulation. ▼

Rosa

(Continued from page 29)

"Since '84, I was actively doing films and doing benefits, and angrily asking for safer sex, making myself very unpopular in Germany. Then in '91 and '92, I also did an outing campaign. Iouted famous German politicians and show stars, and that was more or less a desperate move because I had the feeling that

people didn't take AIDS seriously.

"There was even a movement in Germany which said, 'We have the right to get AIDS. Safe sex is disgusting, and we need the option of spontaneous sex.' I said, especially after the fall of the Berlin Wall, that all these people from East Germany will come into the orgy rooms and backrooms and saunas and bathhouses, and we really have to have programs, effec-

tive programs, to teach them safer sex.

"Then I wrote a big article attacking the AIDS organizations for not being active enough, so I made myself very unpopular. And especially with the outing, I was not only hated by gay people, I was also now hated by heterosexual people, too. So it seems I have a talent to put myself in difficult situations. That's my life." ▼

Exhibits at Koch, Morphos and Belcher Galleries

The Body in Question

by Roberto Friedman

Morrissey put his finger on one of the great questions of the human condition when he asked, "Does the body rule the mind, or does the mind rule the body? I don't know." The mind/body continuum is one of the great subjects of art as well. There has been no more fertile territory for artists than the body. It is the common ground where the burning issues of contemporary art meet, issues of gender, identity, sickness and health. The body is the last battleground of social control and personal integrity as well; control of one's own body and its reproductive functions is a fundamental freedom.

Best of all, the body is the setting for that endlessly stimulating corpus of work we call erotic art. Where else does the erotic reside but in the interstice between mind and body? If eroticism is one of the most culturally determined of values, it is also one greatly subject to individual taste and whim. There is no better index to a person's most deep-seated fantasies and desires than the revelation of what turns him or her on when leisurely perusing a lover's body.

Three recently opened exhibitions offer ample opportunity to contemplate the central place of the body in our contemporary imagination. Scott Siedman's masterful new paintings exploit religious images of the body for their erotic potential in Morphos Gallery's third anniversary exhibition, "Love Over Death." At Belcher Studios Gallery, "Queer" showcases the diverse works of 13 queer artists exalting the male body, sex and desire. At Robert Koch Gallery, "Erotic" foregrounds the erotic impulse in the work of a wide range of master photographers, prints which reflect the entire history of the medium from its late 19th Century beginnings to the present.

'Erotic?'

The show at Robert Koch Gallery includes the expected (Robert Mapplethorpe, represented by images such as "Hooded Man" from the 1980 *Black Book* series; Herb Ritts' musclemen nudes, like the 1988 "Waterfall Torso"; classic images from the '30s and '40s from Brassai, Hans

Bellmer and Irving Penn). But there are also unexpected delights: a young boy baring his breast for Czech photographer Jan Saudek ("Jakob Wearing the Golden Jacket of Childhood", 1989); the surreal female nude from Andre Kertesz's 1933 *Distortions* series; portraits of a young girl,

**The body is
the last
battleground
of social
control and
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integrity.**

archival albumen prints circa 1872, by Charles Lutwidge Dodson, better known as Lewis Carroll. Bay Area artists include Nina Glaser, whose untitled print of a woman wearing an eel around her neck is a highlight of the show, and Lynn Hershman, whose "Call Me" parodies male depictions of the female body. In the interest of equal time, Duane Michals is represented by both "The Most Beautiful Part of a Woman's Body" and "...of a Man's Body."

For every conventionally erotic image, such as *Details* photographer Greg Gorman's "Scott in Waterfall," there are many photographs which challenge the boundaries of what's considered erotic. The obvious example, Joel-Peter Witkin's 1988 "The Graces," dominates its wall of the gallery with a trio of hermaphrodites holding severed monkeys' heads. Must turn *someone* on.

"Erotic" is an assortment of riches too diverse to catalog in the limited space here, but definitely worth a visit to 49 Geary, where the exhibition remains up through February 19.

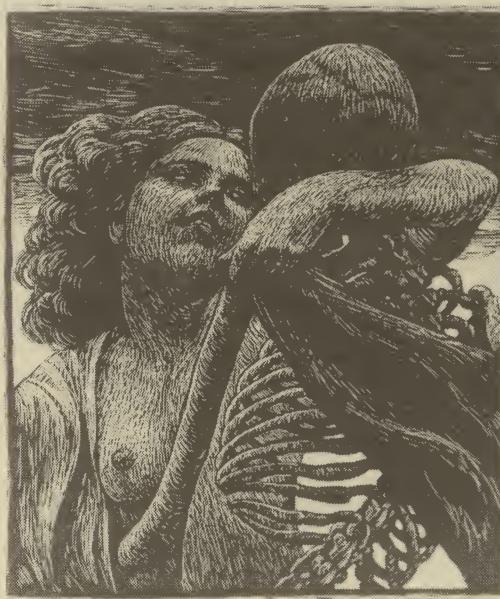
Religious erotica

Scott Siedman's paintings and scratchboard drawings belong to the realm of what Morphos Gallery's Catharine Clark calls "religious erotica." Siedman paints Renaissance or Old Master-style figures in luminescent settings, arranged in hetero- or homosex-

ual tableau. In "Man of Sorrows," for example, a radiant Christ figure glows in holy depiction, complete with a beautiful, godlike hard-on. Two female angels in "The Lovers" pleasure themselves with some heavenly cunnilingus. Siedman's pictures of beauteous hedonists, satyrs and skeletons, exquisitely rendered, affirm the spirituality inherent to sexuality, and triumph of the power of "Love Over Death." The paintings, done on unstretched canvas and unceremoniously nailed to the wall, are "aged" by a faux antiquing process, so that their surfaces buckle and crack like rare old treasures. The show continues at Morphos Gallery, 544 Hayes St., through February 9.

'Queer'

The erotic image generated by queer imaginations takes center stage in "Queer," a group show recently opened at Belcher Studios Gallery. Highlights include Trevor Southeby's classically rendered portraits of male nudes, Gary Llamido's schematic drawings of bodies in tantric sexual states, and John Copoulos's erotic drawings on psychedelic patterned paper. It was a great pleasure to take in such a vibrant mix of local artists at the opening, against a backdrop of unabashed queer sexuality like K. Max Mellenthi's or Michael Poisson's



Love Over Death, 1993, by Scott Siedman

sex party landscapes. Keith Hale makes the homoeroticism implicit in the Boy Scout experience explicit in his painting "Be Prepared," wherein a Cub receives instruction in condom wear by an older Scout. From Freddie Niem's photography of beautiful Asian men and Kirk Stoller's self-portrait series in the entranceway, to Michael

Wallin's video-in-progress "Black Sheep Boy," the *Queer* exhibition is a celebration of the homosexual erotic, thirteen different ways. You can find Belcher Studios Gallery at 69 Belcher, between 14th and Duboce Streets, one block west of Church and Market. Open through January 27; call 626-8917 for times. ▼

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Theatre

Michel Tremblay's 'La Maison Suspendue' Family Plot

by Chad Jones

The magical legacy of a story well told beats at the heart of gay Canadian playwright Michel Tremblay's luminous *La Maison Suspendue* (*The House Among the Stars*), which is currently receiving its U.S. premiere at the Actors Theatre. Written in 1990 and originally produced in Montreal, the play tells a complex tale of three generations of a Quebec family simultaneously, taking place at a small mountain cabin on a beautiful July evening in 1910, 1950 and 1990. The cast of eight is almost always on stage at the same time, but the generations do not cross except in the case of an 11-year-old boy who is present in all three generations. It's a tricky structure to be sure, and Tremblay takes his time laying out his grand scheme, but just when the concept approaches pretension, Tremblay and director Keith Phillips work the material into piquant drama.

Enchanting story

The play hits its stride when Josaphat-LeViolon, the cabin's 1910 owner, tells the story of "La Chasse Galerie," a Quebec legend about a devil who pilots a giant canoe through the sky. Josaphat, in an expertly crafted performance by Chris Phillips, tells his son that on the roof of the

cabin is a rope which is tied to an anchor in the sky. On certain nights, when the family wants to go to Montreal, the devil and his canoe paddle through the sky and grab hold of the rope, dragging the cabin to the city, spinning it

As each generation grapples with its own set of problems, the spirit of the past, of legend, myth and family roots, is never far behind.

through the stars all the way. It's an enchanting story, one that resonates throughout the rest of the play. As each generation grapples with its own set of problems, the spirit of the past, of legend, myth and family roots, is never far behind.

Just when you think the concept is approaching pretension, Tremblay and Phillips work the material into piquant drama.

The family, as presented in each generation, is, thankfully, never a "normal" family: the 1910 clan harbors a scandal that may force them out of their beloved cabin; the family of 1950 deals with acceptance issues — Albertine refuses to accept her flamboy-



Scott Phillips, Richard Lindstrom, and Cameron Fife, the gay couple and their son from the 1990 story line of *La Maison Suspendue*.

antly gay brother Edouard; and the modern family of 1990 has metamorphosed completely — Jean-Marc and Mathieu, a gay couple, have come to the mountains to spend time with Mathieu's young son from his aborted marriage. This is fertile dramatic ground, and the concurrently unfolding plots build steadily to a rich, emotionally satisfying conclusion.

Convincing portrayals

The performances are strong throughout, but Phillips and Catherine Castellanos, in the 1910 story, find the emotional heart of their characters. Louis Parnell as the drag queen Edouard gets big laughs for his flamboyance, but what could be a one-note performance thankfully matures into something more real. Edouard's reconciliation with his enraged, unaccepting sister (a just-right, uptight performance by Edith Bryson) is much too speedy and rings false, but Parnell never lets Edouard's self-respect flag. The 1990 gay lovers, played by Scott Phillips and Richard Lindstrom, are the least com-

elling characters in the play. One never senses that these men are lovers, and Lindstrom, playing a 48-year-old professor, affects a grossly caricatured basso voice that seems too youthful for the part he's playing. Cameron Fife as the young boy in each generation is a joy to watch as he easily becomes the emotional focus of each generation.

Through playwright Tremblay's lyrical storytelling, the "maison" of the title, becomes a central character in and of itself. Set designer Steven Coleman has taken Tremblay's challenge and scored the evening's major triumph with his spectacular alpine set. The Actors Theatre is small, but Coleman has successfully constructed the cabin, its front porch, the yard, a hillside and a surrounding forest. Coleman's stagecraft, combined with the poignant drama, allow the audience to become immersed in the aura of one family's priceless legacy: a small cabin capable of spinning through stars. ▼

La Maison Suspendue
Actors Theatre, open-ended run
296-9179

Tremblay

(Continued from page 29)

said. "I feel as if I've been constructing a giant puzzle. When I do, I hope the puzzle will be complete."

No happy endings

Like Jean Genet, Tremblay doesn't believe in happy endings in theatre. "Never provide resolution, because then the audience doesn't have to think about the issues of the play," he said. "A play is never an answer. A play is a big question mark." Tremblay does concede, however, that endings, though not happy, can be hopeful. "But then you have to ask yourself: they solved this problem today,

but what about tomorrow?"

Like *La Maison Suspendue*, many of Tremblay's works deal with the inner workings of the family. The 51-year-old Tremblay does not have children of his own, but has defined family for himself: "Of course I have a family of my own," he said. "Any human being you meet or see encounters two big families in their lifetime: the family they were born into and the family they choose in their 20s. I write a lot about these two families — the one you can't get rid of, and the one you construct and structure when you're old enough to need it."

As for his measure of success, Tremblay said he is content with his station in life.

His plays have been performed in Japan, Britain, Italy and France, and his novels have been best sellers in both Canada and Europe. Enormously proud of his Quebec roots, Tremblay considers himself a self-made man. "I didn't go to a university," he said. "I was certain I would never be produced as a playwright, so I became a linotype. I did not study to become the famous man I am. This is why some people hate me in Quebec. I didn't come through their systems, and these people were not my teachers. I love that."

Editor's Note: *La Maison Suspendue* continues at the Actors Theatre. For ticket information, call 296-9179.

Theatre

Fifth Province Theatre's 'sheela-na-gig'

The Luck of the Irish



Sheela-na-gig, Deidre Herbert, Kate Perry, Lee Ann Manley, Marjorie Panetti and Janet Roitz.

by Deborah Peifer

I should begin, I suspect, with a confession. As an American of mixed European ancestry (Bohemian, Swedish, German), I've often yearned for a specific, and more interesting ethnicity. When I'm cooking, I wish I were Italian. But in my deepest, secret soul, I long for a Celtic heritage. Thus, I was disposed to like *sheela-na-gig* as soon as I heard Deidre

Herbert's glorious brogue. But there is much more than lovely sounds to recommend this first effort by Fifth Province Theatre Company.

Sheela-na-gig is a graphic representation of the Celtic goddess of creation and destruction. *Sheela-na-gig*, the performance, is not really a play, but five interwoven monologues taken from Irish literature with characters ranging from James Joyce's Molly Bloom to William Butler Yeats' Crazy Jane. Each

actor plays a single woman, and although they occupy the same stage, there is no real interaction among them. I'm not sure the whole thing hangs together, but I can tell you that two of the pieces are quite fine, and well worth a trip to The Marsh to enjoy.

Deidre Herbert, who created and directed the production, is Molly Bloom, fascinating, and wickedly funny, in her extended rapture on the joys and absurdities of sex. Herbert captures Molly's de-

light at the remembrance of (sexual) things past, and her longing for a deeply sexual future. The characterization is rich — Herbert's Molly is truly a woman "ripe with seed."

Kate Perry, from Derry, plays Ann Elizabeth McGlone (from Frances Molloy's *No Mate for the Magpie*), and she and her character are enchanting. Ann, desperate to escape her parents' plan for her to marry a factory worker, decides to join a convent

instead. Her innocent comments on monastic life are touching and hilarious.

The other three pieces were less successful because of problems with the pieces themselves and the skills of the actors. I think, however, that *sheela-na-gig* marks an auspicious beginning for this company, and I look forward to their next production. ▼

sheela-na-gig
The Marsh, through January 29
(415) 641-0235

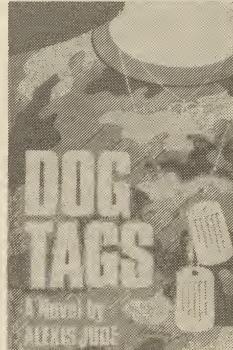
Book Briefs

Dog Tags

Dog Tags, by Alexis Jude; New Victoria, \$9.95

by Deborah Peifer

Alexis Jude's new book, *Dog Tags*, is a novel about lesbians in the military. My first reaction was dismay at that seemingly tired topic, but I persevered, and am so glad that I did. *Dog Tags* tells of the horrific abuses of power inherent under the inherently unfair and unworkable "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Myra is a lesbian who loves everything about the military except the homophobia. She volunteers to serve in Korea, because the anti-gay witch hunts are less likely to result in discharge in a combat zone. She is pursued, harassed, stalked, and assaulted by Craft, a vile man who threatens to accuse her of lesbianism if she reports the abuse. Myra, knowing that mere accusation will mark the end of her 16-year career, is terrified into silence. The cavalry, in the person of Tory, arrives to save the day, after a series of compelling plot twists, but of course, there is a limit to how much saving can be done when the military itself remains unredeemed.



Jude is a good writer, and as a former GI herself, she captures the feel, the tension, the sweat of life in a combat zone. Her characters are well-developed, her villains appropriately villainous, her heroes believably heroic. Particularly impressive, and more than a little depressing, is the way Jude portrays the constant, bone-crushing, soul-destroying torture that is the direct result of institutional homophobia. *Dog Tags* is a powerful indictment of the military; I hope Hillary gave Bill a copy for Christmas. ▼

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A Chip on His Shoulder

A Place At The Table
by Bruce Bawer; Poseidon Press, 269 pages; \$21.00

by Orland Outland

Bruce Bawer knows how to counter the language of homophobia. The abuse of words like "choice, recruit, promote, lifestyle, family," etc. is effectively shown in his recently published book, *A Place At The Table*. But he leaves out one word: "flamboyant," which he reserves for his own use. Though he has strong medicine for the religious right, the crux of this gay man's book is his argument against the "gay subculture."

At the beginning of the book, he writes about seeing a young man at a newsstand, surreptitiously picking up a copy of the *New York Native*. Bawer wants to tell the boy he wasn't a criminal for being gay, but that's not all — looking at the *Native*, he is "irked" by photos of drag queens, "black-clad men in bondage," and "hunky, bare-chested young men, no doubt promoting 'massages' and 'escort services' and X-rated videotapes." He wants to tell the boy that this isn't all there is to gay life. But he also wants to tell him that there's "no inherent conflict between homosexuality and decency." After all is said and done, that's the crux of this book — Bawer's wish that homosexuals wouldn't be so indecent.

Chock-full of generalities

This book's train goes off

the tracks when Bawer makes references to things like "homosexuality as it really exists in America." Bawer says the subculture's residents make up a minority of American homosexuals, but then says that "the vast majority of gay Americans," "the majority of homosexuals" and even, yes, "the 'silent majority' of homosexuals" think, feel and live as Bawer does. "Most gays are largely closeted," he says. He claims celibate gay men "make up a large portion of the gay population." Did he take a poll?

Bawer describes watching New York's Gay Pride Parade; he is appalled at the sexual display (nipple rings and Spandex bicycle shorts are his particular horrors) but more appalled by "smart, talented people who held down respectable jobs in the corporate world or the fashion industry [who] seemed to have done their best on this special day to look like tawdry bimbos, bar boys, and beach bums." He contrasts the marchers with those whom he sees at his church the same day, "every last one of them elegantly turned out in suit and tie and polished black shoes."

Bawer holds it to be self-evident that service workers and the unemployed are lesser human beings than "professionals" in finance or publishing. "Long after the young stockbrokers and magazine editors had stowed away their

flamboyant Gay Pride Day accoutrements ... and slipped back into their everyday Brooks Brothers togs, anti-gay propagandists would put together videotapes showing these young professionals looking very, shall we say, unprofessional." As to what image any pink- or blue-collar gay men in the audience project, Bawer is silent. They are at worst nonexistent and at best unimportant in his world view.

Conformity?

His declarations about the gay subculture are vague, general, and subjective. Those who live in a gay society are "subculture clones" who "huddle together in gay ghettos and live, obedient as Marines, in utter conformity with the unwritten rules of the gay subculture." Gay life is a "sociocultural cesspool" and its members lead "empty, dissolute lives" (or "lonely, promiscuous lives" if they're lucky). In Bawer's cosmology, radical queer sex-addicted bar boys, beach bums, and male prostitutes fill up "the subculture"; meanwhile, "neatly turned out" gay professionals live and work outside this "cesspool" (occasionally dropping into the cesspool for a cocktail). As for the idea of gay people living in conformity, Bawer need only pick up any gay paper and read the letters to be disillusioned of his fantasy of legions of obedient, conformist homosexu-

A PLACE

AT THE TABLE

THE GAY INDIVIDUAL
IN AMERICAN SOCIETY

BRUCE BAWER

als.

Initially, Bawer differentiates between the "gay ghetto" or "gay community" and the "subculture." It is possible to be a gay man in Greenwich Village without buying into the subculture at all," he says, but as the book goes on, the "subculture" becomes synonymous with the "gay ghetto." Living there is not a "desirable option" to (here it comes) "most" adult homosexuals, who "were raised in conventional middle-class homes in conventional middle-class neighborhoods," and who "want to spend their lives in similar homes and neighborhoods, and they don't see why being gay should prevent them from doing so." In this reasoning, a suburb is a neighborhood, but the "gay world" feels "artificial" to Bawer's imaginary statistical majority. "They want to live in the *real world*," as if the "conventional middle-class neighborhoods" to which his ideal homosexual aspires were free of pressure to conform. How is it that to associate with other homosexuals "is to center one's identity on one's homosexuality," but to live in a suburb is not a matter of centering one's identity on one's marital and economic status?

It makes his heart glad to see contingents from Idaho and Nebraska at the March on Washington, who "did lend the event a certain fresh-scrubbed, middle-American winsomeness." There are no "courtship rituals" for gays, he says sadly, and indeed there are not — nor are there many for heterosexuals anymore. Bawer doesn't want acceptance in the present; he wants admission to the past.

He is opposed to the idea of "coming out" as a political act. "To politicize one's sexual orientation is to deny the personal." True — and that's exactly why Bawer's call for "admirable" gays to come out, and for "bar boys" and "beach bums" to go away, is so offensive. And if, as Bawer asserts, gay people have nothing in common but their sexuality, why have role models or rep-

resentatives at all, when nobody can claim to speak for anybody but themselves? In one breath he says homosexuals have nothing in common but their orientation; but in the next he says that "most" homosexuals are as stodgy and conservative and unconcerned with the rest of the world's problems as he is.

Bawer displays a startling naivete about homophobic persons. "Ordinarily kind and compassionate heterosexuals are confronted with homosexuals and turn startlingly malicious." Professional gay-bashers incite fear in "millions of otherwise decent people." "Most people who condemn homosexuals are not wicked." "No subject occasions such un-Christian ugliness in some Christian communities and churches as does homosexuality." What about abortion?

Stale metaphors

The metaphor in Bawer's title comes from President Clinton's inaugural address, in which he hopes to build a world "where everyone has a place at the table." Bawer notes that some denizens of the subculture have grown accustomed to sitting at their "little table." "Certainly most homosexuals don't want to be relegated to that little table. We grew up at the big table; we're at home there." Just who is we?

Bawer is an educated white man who for years passed as straight. This doesn't make him a villain, but it ranks him among those who don't experience tangible prejudice on a frequent basis. Of "young upper-middle-class ACT UP members," he writes "many of them have never known how it feels to be a member of any minority group, let alone to go hungry or be homeless or fight in a war; all their lives they've taken for granted their health, prosperity, and privilege, and their own homosexuality is the first curve ball that life has thrown them." The same may be said of the author himself. ▼

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Books

Mixed Message for Queers

Radio Demagogue

by Brandon Judell

Women, is it your dream to turn on the TV and see scantily clad lesbians performing Romeo and Labia? Well, that dream may become a reality soon on your local pay-for-view cable channel thanks to Howard Stern.

Yes, quite possibly the best thing to happen to homosexuals this year is the national emergence of the Howard Stern phenomenon. Example: Ever since I went to Florida and played Mom tapes of his radio broadcasts, she no longer pines that I won't supply her with grand-

tressed, tall gent who claims to hate Broadway musicals and has a very small penis. Putting these inadequacies aside, that's if you consider them such, Stern has become a number one morning radio personality from New York City to Los Angeles and various locales in between, filling the airwaves from anywhere to four to five hours daily. He also has a hit show on the E! Entertainment Television cable network, and a very funny best-selling book, *Private Parts* (Simon & Schuster).

Easygoing sidekick

His sidekick on the radio show is the at-times very liberal, pro-gay Robin Quivers, whose blackness, feminism and sapience provide much needed balance to the show. Without Quivers, Stern couldn't get away with half the twaddle he spouts.

But even with Quivers, Stern is sometimes too much. And if you just tune into one episode on the wrong day, you might think you're listening to Breakfast with Jesse Helms.

The worst of Stern's Helms-like anti-gay moments was his announcement a few years back that a cast member of the Broadway show, *Grand Hotel*, had died of AIDS while recording the Original Cast Album. He then bragged that he had a copy of the recording, which he proceeded to play. Listeners heard someone singing, followed by a sound like a needle scratching and then a body hitting the ground.

Stern's other atrocities include coming out against gays marching in St. Patrick's Day parades under their own banners, giving out false information about the spread of AIDS, and thinking gays' lives are sadder than straights (which is hard to imagine seeing the straight losers he's often surrounded by). To compound things, he writes in *Private Parts*:

"In my opinion, homosexuality is just another way of delaying childhood. When you're with another guy you

Listeners heard someone singing, followed by the sound of a needle scratching and then a body hitting the ground.

children. In fact, now she tries to get me dates with her hairdresser.

Then after a 76-year-old gent two-timed Mom just as she was about to purchase a black negligee, she, then 80, announced in her strong German accent, "I'm giving up on men!"

"What about women?" I asked.

"Well, I could kiss them on the lips but not on the !*&#!"

Thank you, Mr. Stern. By making heterosexuality so uninteresting, and exposing heterosexual men as empty-brained, misogynistic bigots who are controlled by their gonads, you've single-handedly made homosexuality appealing.

For those of you not familiar with Stern, he's a long

don't have to deal with the responsibilities of a traditional family. You extend the joys of your prepubescence. You're stuck in the phase of your life where you just hang out with boys. It's a simpler time. And a gross sign of immaturity... Like obsessive-compulsive behavior, alcoholism, or gambling addictions, homosexual behavior can be changed. I have nothing against homosexuals and support gay rights, but...

"...I can't fathom the ass as a sex object. I mean, why don't I just go and put my dick in a garbage pail? I could shower my backside ninety times a day, I could clean it out with a wire brush, that smell is a road flare to me..."

No wonder GLAAD and Harvey Fierstein detest Stern.

On the positive side, Stern has frequently come out

against gay bashing. He starred in hysterical gay skits (e.g. Homocop; Buttman), and when he has openly gay guests on his show, like Funny Gay Males, Boy George and Janis Ian, he is charming and supportive. In fact, Stern is sort of like a big dumb ox who thinks homosexuality is weird but he wants you to be happy, and if anyone makes fun of you besides himself, they'd better watch out.

Unctious gadfly

One of the regular highlights of his radio broadcasts is the gay and lesbian dating games for which he was praised by *The Washington Blade*, D.C.'s gay paper: "Stern often wields his voice on the air to mercilessly puncture the pretensions and underline the stupidity of the people who call his show.

Therefore, there was concern that he would use the occasion of the Gay Dial-a-Date to ridicule homosexuals. Instead... the Gay community was treated to one of the best, most sensitive treatments of Gay themes ever to air on the mainstream media."

Now if we can only get Stern to stop using "queer" as a put-down, stop rating women by their bust-size and viewing them as mere creations for male amusement, get over his love/hate relationship with his own anus ("I never learned how to wipe properly"), and start going after homophobes more often (a large part of his constituency), there might just be a Howard Stern float zooming down the avenue one Gay Pride Day. We can only hope, though that he won't be on it emitting fumes as Partman. ▼

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Sports

Six Gay and Lesbian Ski Weeks to Choose From

The Winter of Many Ski Weeks

by Nicole Clauzing

For fifteen years it was simple: if you were gay and you skied, you went to Aspen in January. It was the only gay ski week around, but what a week it was: three feet of powder and three thousand of your closest queer friends on the slopes.

Then came Amendment 2, and things got complicated. Boycotting Colorado seemed like the easy solution, but was it really fair to punish traditionally gay-positive areas simply because they were located in a homophobic state? Then several other ski areas either instituted or started widely advertising alternative gay ski weeks. A cynic would say our community was being

Which brings us to the winter of 1994. Amendment 2 is history. Things are still confusing, but in a positive way. Gay skiers are wondering if it is too late to make reservations for Aspen? And if so, which other ski week is the one to go to? Gay and lesbian skiers have no less than six events to choose from this year.

The late fall passage of Amendment 2 in 1992, and the fact that its defeat also came so close to ski season caused havoc in the ski world. Choosing to boycott Colorado in 1992 often meant canceling expensive reservations and losing deposits that had been made months before.

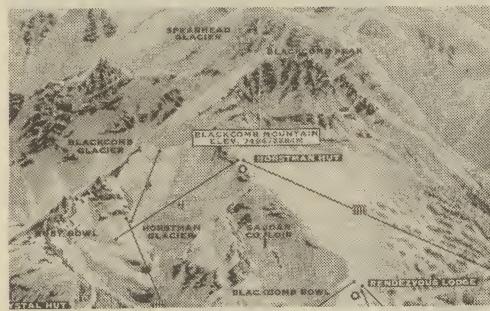
The financial reality, com-

the boycott. San Francisco's Skiers And Gay Athletes (SAGA), for example, went to Aspen last year: according to president Doug Hayward, 30 people who had signed up for the trip canceled, but the other 20 went skiing. And according to representatives of BW Travel in Norwalk, CT, the semi-official travel agent for the Aspen gay ski week, about 70 percent of those who signed up to go last year did so.

Ironically, this year is the year Aspen may suffer. Because skiers did not know until a few weeks ago whether or not Colorado would be a politically correct destination this winter, many decided to go elsewhere just in case. BW travel has no estimate of how many gay skiers made this decision; three months ago they lost faith that Amendment 2 would be overturned and they dropped their affiliation with the event.

Anyone wishing to get to Aspen this year had better make plans quickly: the party starts January 22 and lasts through the 28th. For information call the Gay and Lesbian Community in Aspen at (303) 925-9249, or the Aspen Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-26-ASPEN.

Too late for Aspen? There are five other locales offering gay ski weeks this year. If you're going to be back east — way east — this winter, both Innsbruck, Austria, and Lenzerheide, Switzerland are offering events. The Innsbruck event is expected to be small (75 showed up last year)



Some of the hills you may get friendly with if you head out for the Whistler week.

pandered to; an optimist would say more doors were being opened to us. Either way, it was just plain confusing.

blended with the notion that gay-friendly Aspen deserved support meant that many gay and lesbian skiers went ahead with Colorado plans during



The two gay ski poster-boys for the Whistler Ski Week.

and most of the participants will be American. For information, call Holidaze at (908) 280-1120.

The Swiss week is organized by Skiing With International Gays (SWING). This gathering will also be small, but should include a more nationally mixed crowd. For more information call JRG Peter Huber at 011-41-1-725-2941.

Still international, but slightly more accessible is the Whistler Gay Ski Week. Organizer Brent Benaschak says he expects about 1,000 people to take part in the festivities from February 6-13. So far groups from places as diverse as Seattle, Sydney, Gstaad and Connecticut have signed up.

About 400 came last year, which was the first year that an official gay ski week was advertised aggressively. Still, says Benaschak, the Whistler gay ski week was not invented with the idea of attracting gay ex-Aspen patrons. "We weren't even watching Amendment 2," says Benaschak. "We had no idea."

To book accommodations at Whistler, voted the top ski area in North America by Snow Country Magazine, call (604) 938-0772.

As you read this, it is almost too late to get to Park City's big week. The Park City event, dubbed Ski Fest 94, is being held at both Park City and Deer Valley from January 15-22. This is the second year that the Park City area has had a gay ski week. Last year an event was spontaneously organized after the passage of Amendment 2. There was no advertising; news got out only by word of mouth, but still, a crowd of

300 or so came, according to organizer Peter Siderius.

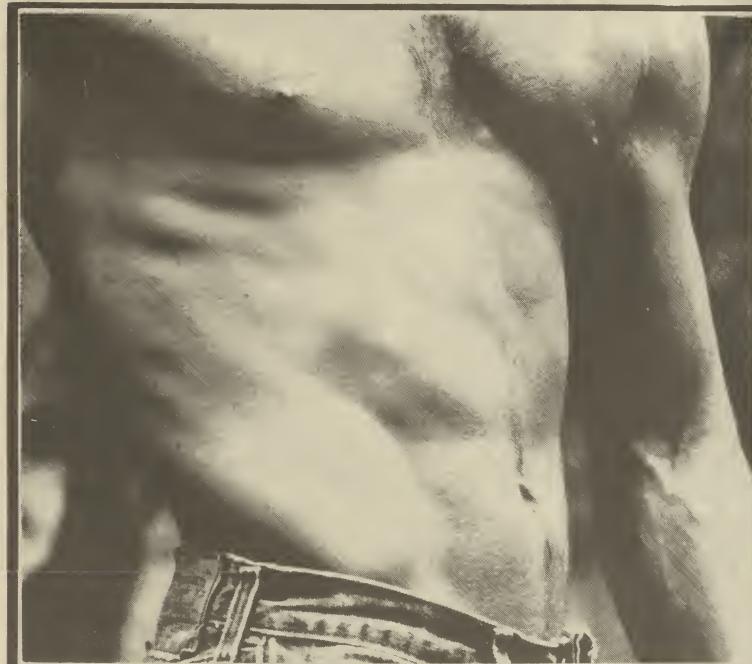
Utah may seem like an unlikely place for a gay function, but, says Siderius, the Mormon presence in that state had gotten a bad rap. Salt Lake City, in fact, has the third largest per capita gay and lesbian population in the nation, according to Siderius. He describes state laws concerning homosexuality as "very progressive."

"They may want us all to be Mormon, but while we're not, they're still happy to deal with us," says Siderius, who adds that in his dealings with local officials, he has found them to be "extremely supportive and excited" about the event.

For bookings, call Ski Holidays at 1-800-222-PARK, or the trip organizers at 1-800-GAY-TRIP.

The gay ski week at Tahoe is probably the easiest for most Bay Area readers to get to, and it's not too late. Winterfest Tahoe 1994 kicks off on March 13, and offers some wild parties and six days of skiing at eight different areas on the north shore. According to Nita Platt of Above and Beyond tours, the booking agent for the event, about 1,500 people are expected. Vacation packages can be booked by calling Above and Beyond at 1-800-397-2681.

Winterfest Tahoe, like Park City's Ski Fest 94, was born out of the necessity created by Amendment 2. With the defeat of the proposition, it is difficult to say what will happen next year. Will gay and lesbian skiers still have six different gay ski weeks to choose from? Who knows. Just be sure to take advantage of it while you can. ▼



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LOCAL GAY-OWNED AND OPERATED

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Golden Gate Classic Bowling Action

by Nicole Clauzing

Is bowling the most popular gay sport?

DJ Momme and Don George, who organized last weekend's Bud Light Golden Gate Classic tournament, won't commit to saying yes. But, says Momme, it is certainly the most organized.

Comparing the popularity of bowling in the gay community to the popularity of other sports is difficult, explains Momme, because few sports are so organized that a gay head count is possible.

Bowling, however, is such a sport. And the numbers are pretty impressive: at the last Gay Games, according to George, nearly 1,000 bowlers competed, making bowling the sport with the largest number of competitors. And, says George, the International Gay Bowling Organization (IGBO) has 17,000 members in North America and Australia.

Here in San Francisco, says George, about 700 bowlers regularly participate in 13 gay leagues.

Last weekend 320 bowlers from 53 cities in twelve states and Canada (no Australians made the trek) took part in the 10th annual Golden Gate Classic bowling tournament, this year sponsored by Bud Light.

This tournament, one of about 30 major annual international gay bowling tournaments, is in its tenth year. This year's event, however, saw some changes to the traditional format. One change is the sponsor: Miller Beer has sponsored the tournament in the past. Another change is abolition of the "no tap" rule. Previously, if a bowler knocked down nine of the ten pins on the first ball, he or she was awarded a strike. An addition to this year's tournament is the inclusion of an optional "scratch," or un-handicapped tournament after the main event.

Unchanged from previous years is the tradition of a weekend of serious fun. A \$69 entry fee bought nine games, as well as a place at Sunday's awards banquet at the Cath-

dral Hill Hotel. The tournament started Friday evening, and didn't wind up until late Sunday. Prizes were awarded in team, doubles, and singles competition.

Money left over after the expenses of prizes, trophies and lane rental goes to the San Francisco Bowlers Emergency Aid Relief fund, a fund that helps people with life-threatening illnesses meet expenses.

What makes bowling so popular among gays and lesbians? Organizers give a number of reasons. One, says George, is that the money is good. In last weekend's tournament, for example, the winning team took home \$3,000. The first place pair split \$1,500, and the top single bowler won \$750. Bowling is, in fact, the most lucrative gay sport, according to George.

Another reason for bowling's popularity, adds Momme, is that men and women can compete equally. Momme explains that the average woman's leg strength compensates for an upper body that lacks a man's power. "Same procedure, different delivery," says Momme of men's and women's bowling styles. At any rate, he says, most major tournaments are handicapped, just as golf is, so that players of any ability can compete fairly against each other.

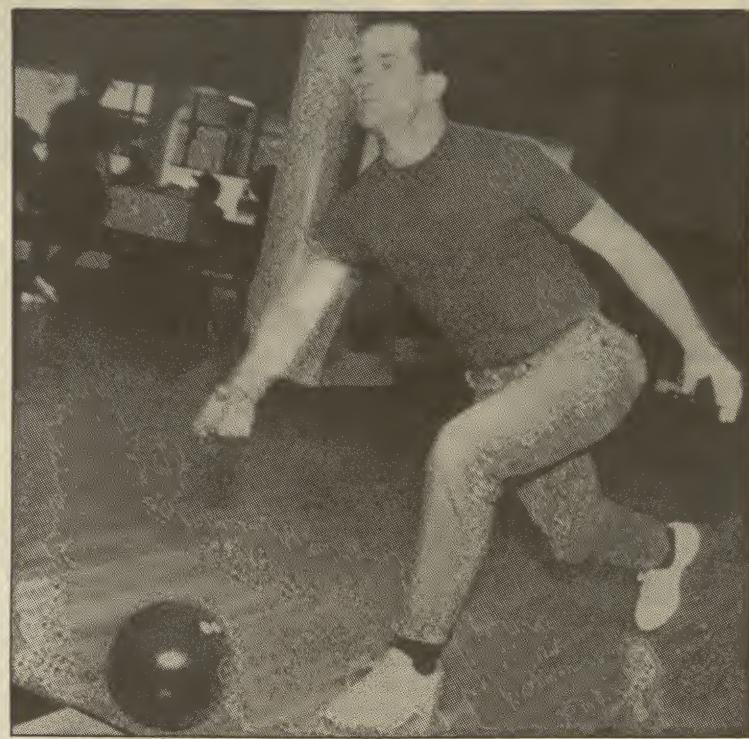
The final reason? It's just plain fun. "It's the ultimate social sport," says Momme.

While many of the competitors are serious about winning, the atmosphere is definitely non-intimidating. "It's a great atmosphere to compete in — very social," says George. Or, as Momme puts it, "What other sport has cocktail waitresses?"

"I go for the party," continues Momme with a laugh. "And bowling interrupts."

Tournament Results

Singles — First place: Kevin Schwabe from San Francisco, score 799, prize \$750. Second place: Dave Pritchett from Sacramento, score 772, prize \$375. Third place: Jeff Kearns from San



And the bowling ball rolls on.

(Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

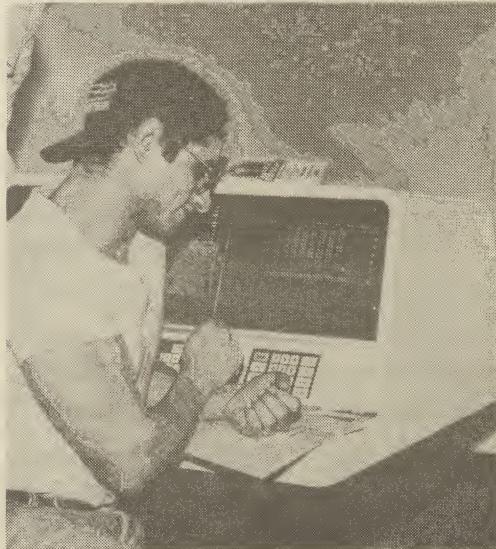
Francisco, score 763, prize \$150.

Doubles — First place: Brian Bell and Chris Munoz, from Southern California, score 1569, prize \$1500. Second place: Scott Swift from Arizona, and Raymond Sasso from San Francisco, score

1524, prize \$750. Third place: Todd Payton and Lauren Pike from Oregon, score 1421, prize \$300.

Team play — First place: Steve Smolen, Ray Penzel, Robert Arsenian, and Bill Devoe — all from Southern California; score 2792, prize

\$3,000. Second place: William Haynes, Gil Leighty, Terry Dean, and Laurel Petrie — all from Arizona; score 2667, prize \$1,500. Third place: Jim Gay, Jeff Heiden, Brian Bell, and Chris Munoz — all from Southern California; score 2658, prize \$900. ▼



Reading the computer score sheet. (Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

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Women!

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1

First describe yourself. Be honest, so you don't waste your time, or anybody else's.

Then state what you are looking for Be specific but keep in mind that if you're too specific you may limit your responses.

2

Now that you are in control, list the things you enjoy most.

3

It's fun to end an ad with a suggestion on where you would like to go, or what you would like to do when you meet.

4

Have Fun!

Women seeking adventure

Cute, petite, slim and very athletic WW seeks a cute woman of color to have fun and who knows a possible relationship with. I would like to have coffee and talk to woman of substance. EXT 2029.

GHF, 28, professional, N/S, lives for dancing, dining and romance, cute cuddly and kind seeks GHF of GWF under 40 who loves dancing and hates mind games, leans toward the femminine side. EXT 2030.

GWF soft/butch looking for a femminine but aggressive woman with a great sense of humor, mature and comfortable with sexuality. EXT 2031.

Men seeking relationships

GWM, E Bay, 6', 185, 41, thinning Bl/Gr hair. Somewhat hairy, 34w, 44c. Enjoy wt lifting, bike riding, music, movies. You top, 35-40, HIVneg. What LTR. EXT 1952.

21yo Blk M searching for young Asian for fun, talkimg poss relationship. Must be 15-25, musc, athletic, good att. Vallejo area. EXT 1953.

AM, 26, fit out going, honest seeks guys under 30 for movies, dancing, dining, laughter. EXT 1954.

Attractive Latin men, 50-65 sought by very handsome boy, 27, with very cute buns and smooth tan skin, descent dressing. No jeans please. EXT 1955.

Shy GAM, 28, 5'10", 142, HIVneg, attractive seeks GWM, 20-35, shy honest, HIVneg for LTR or friendship. EXT 1956.

Wheelchair guy soon to be Lawyer seeks big hearted, self esteem, sincere guy to share enriching loving happiness and life. EXT 1957.

GWM, 5'8", 160lbs, Br/Bl very attr HIVneg seeking same for poss LTR. You must be hot. EXT 1959.

GBM HIVneg, 38, slim build 5'5", boyish face seeks jhng attractive Black slim built 20-45 for friendship. Call. Lets get together. Ext 1960.

Big guy seeks Asian, Hispanic, anglos under 35 for a LTR. Let me hold you, caress you, please you! GWM, 30, 5'11". Br/Br, 350, clshvn, HIVneg. EXT 1961.

GWM seeks top to service and oral first then fuck like crazy: A hot ass and eager mouth and only WM need apply. Size a plus, cum must. EXT 1963.

Distinctive, handsome, 46, GWM, discreet, shy, not intyo, gay bars, seek friend, poss LTR, in vallejo, waiting for you. UR young willing, safe sex. EXT 1966.

HIVpos top wanted. Needs dark hair, brown eyes, moustache. Any age, race, or size. Blonde, blue, 31, handsome needs boyfriend for funtimes and romance. EXT 1993.

I am 32 thirsty for love, affectionate, stable seeking man ove 58, stocky a plus. Please call. EXT 1994

GPM, B/Br, 28, 5'7", 60, beard, stache, HIVneg, sks int hairy, Med, Lat, Mideast, 30-45, or Bob Hoskins look alike, enjoy trvl, intr'l music adventure. EXT 1995.

GWM, 39, hairy, husky, balding, mustache seeks guy 20-30 with attractive boyish looks for possible relationship. I'm 5'9", 190, HIVneg. EXT 1997.

wrap it up, wrap it up, wrap it up

Financial Distrcit blond dad seeks bright eager lad to learn from bedroom to boardroom. I'm HIVpos, smoker. Live in possible. EXT 1998.

Irish AM top, 43, big guy, hairy, heavy, easygoing wants Latino/Brasiliano masculine bottom, 25-40, HIVneg, good natured companero. In my arms. No importa Ingles. EXT 1999.

GWM, nasty dad, 6'4", 250, hairy chest seeks nasty son 20-30 for LTR. Son must like to orally service dad's entire body. Kinky mind!!! EXT 2000.

GWM, 33yo, slim wants sex or relationship with Asian, Latin, White, 25-40. Let's see what happens. EXT 2002.

GWM, 19 seeks GAM, 18-29, for dating, poss LTR. N/S, N/D, HIVneg, no attitude only please. I'm honest, shy, caring. Call me, Let's talk. EXT 2003.

HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR BARTALK MESSAGES TODAY. THERE COULD BE A DREAM DATE JUST WAITING FOR YOU. CALL TODAY.

Hi. I am looking for romantic times as well as sexual love between us both. I am 50yo, br/bl, hung, warm, clean and healthy. EXT 2004.

Friendship and more. GWM, 33yo, 5'9", 130lbs, looking for real people, 25-40 to dance, movies, quiet times with. No games please. EXT 2005.

3 way. GWM, 41/ GLM, 34 in shape looking for GAM or GLM in shape. Sex only. EXT 2006.

Like to travel? Cancun, Rome, Paris? Like opera and classical music? GWM, HIVneg, 38, 5'6", 130 UB2, for LTR. EXT 2007.

39yo WM seeking non-anal HIVneg man. Me 5'7", 145lbs, B/B, non-smoker enjoy quiet moments and intimacy with one special friend. EXT 2028.

GWM, 32, blond mustache, bottom, hot butt seeks GWM, 25-45 top for hot sex. No drugs or trols. Relationship for regular encounters desired. EXT 2027.

Men seeking adventure

Palo Alto GAM, 33, 210, seeks hairy bodied guy under 50 in my area to suck off, violate me tight buns. EXT 1967.

Horny? Ready for my mouth and tongue to excite your cock and balls and to bust your nut? Body rub too. Me: HIVneg, HT/WT prop. UB2. EXT 1968.

My SWM friend wants to watch gay love- maybe join in. Why should I choose you to help me put on this show? EXT 1975.

BARTALK AD OF THE WEEK

GWM, nasty dad, 6'4", 250, hairy chest seeks nasty son 20-30, for LTR. Son must like to orally serve dad's entire body! Kinky mind!! EXT 2000.

BJ buddy. Clean, in shape, any race, masc, gay, bi, straight, 18-35, handsome, healthy, 4-6', cut. Versatile, discreet, hot satisfaction, EXT 1969.

49yo white top, 9'cock seeks young white muscular bottoms who want thier tight asses fucked by older, experienced man. EXT 1971.

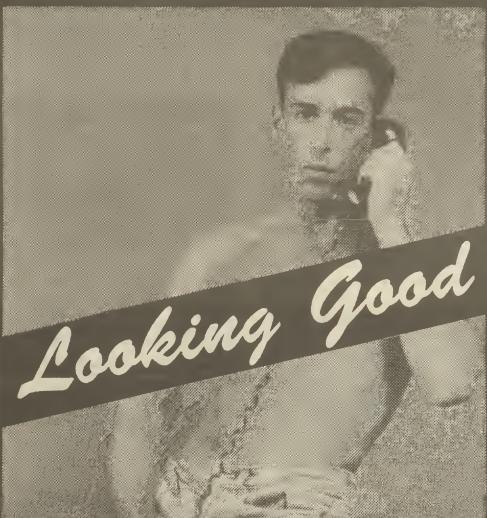
Hot mouth in the city for Latin, Asian or Philipino top men who love to have thier feet service. Me 33, 5'10", 170, 33, jocks ok too. EXT 1972.

Blace male wanted by attractive GWM, 25, Blonde looking for a physically fit, masculine and romantic man under 35 and HIVneg. EXT 1973.

Aussie guy, 32, blonde, hazel, 6', 8' cut, HIVneg, shaved cock and balls into getting sweaty, nice butt. One on one or groups. EXT 1974.

East Bay 1 on 1 heavy mutual jo, dirty talk, C/B worship, partying freak seeks hung guys for intense trip. Not fuck/suck trip. Buddy to buddy. EXT 1980.

Butt ugly men, nerds, geeks etc sought for mutual JO dirty talk, C/B worship. MY place(oakland), late night. Not fuck/suck /top/bottom. EXT 1981.



Tell 'em about it on the BarTalk Bulletin Board. Leave a message or get names and numbers from people just like yourself!

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THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 21

Action
Berkeley Theatre Project's spin on Sam Shepard's off-kilter one-act about doing things and the failure to do them. Since they're performing it twice each night for your pleasure with the women and men switching parts, it also explores gender roles in an amusing way. \$8-12. 8pm. Thru 2/13. Climate Theater, 252 9th St. at Folsom & Howard. 626-9196.

Blood Sisters: Women Breaking Ground
Video showcase of work by members of Post Modern Sisters (PMS). Seven shorts recount women's childhood, motherhood and poverty experiences. \$5. 8:30pm. ATA, 992 Valencia at 21st. 824-3890.

The Dyke and the Porn Star
Bayla Travis' duo show about erotic perspectives on passion. If she makes you hot, can she make you happy? \$7. 10:30pm. Fridays thru Jan. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia near 22nd. 641-0235.

Fences
Egypt Theatre's production of August Wilson's play about several generations of a black family in the '50s. \$6-8. 8pm. Egypt Theatre, 5306 Foothill Blvd. at Fairfax, Oakland. (510) 436-4877.

Fires in the Mirror: Crown Heights, Brooklyn, & Other Identities
Anna Devere Smith's amazing one-woman, multiple-character play about the myriad frustrations, passions and the violence of the Jewish/black

discord in Crown Heights. \$16-21. 8pm, & matinees. Thru 1/28. Berkeley Rep. 625 Addison, downtown Berkeley. (510) 845-4700.

Midsummer Night's Dream Measure for Measure
Shakespeare & Co.'s production of two great Shakespeare plays in repertory. \$10. 8pm. Sun. at 7pm. Thru 1/30. YMCA Theater, 220 Golden Gate Ave. at Leavenworth. 267-6165.

Mark Morris & Joan Acocella
The famed gay longhaired choreographer appears with the author of the new book about his work. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Queer Thinking
Minneapolis performer Patrick Scully brings his characters Tonya (drag queen spin-off of Patty Hearst), Passion Fruit (insightful radical faerie), and militant homos vs. closet cases to the stage for a foray into the identity of being bent. \$10-12. 8pm. Thru 1/30. Josie's, 16th at Market. 861-7933.

The Secretaries
Direct from New York, Five Lesbian Brothers perform their insane new comedy about Big Bone, Oregon, and a lumber mill run by smart high-heeled, high-haired secretaries who binge on Slimfast and kill lumberjacks. \$10-20. 8pm. Sat. at 5pm. Sun. at 3pm. Thru 2/19. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th at Mission. 861-5079.

Sister Double Happiness
Butch queer thrashcore. If you long for queer-friendly mosh pit, this is it. Also, Motherlode & Weisenheimer. \$6. 9pm. Kennel Club, 628 Divisadero. 931-1914.



Steppes Bring a lunch of bobkas! It's the annual Ethnic Dance Festival marathon auditions. Open to the public, the auditions are a great opportunity to enjoy free day-long sessions of dance companies performing movement and music from the Ukraine, Senegal, Cambodia, Bali, Egypt and just about every other country on the planet. Friday thru Sunday, Jan. 21-23. at San Fran. State University. 474-3916.

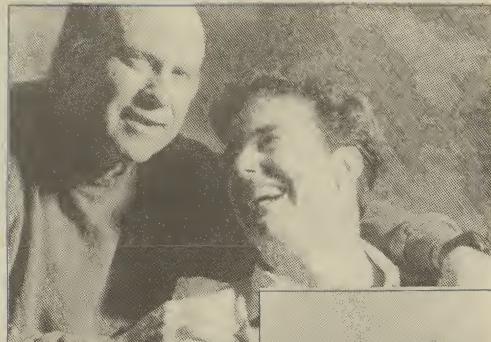


Chesty Baker

You didn't know Chet had a wife? Neither did he, but she sings cool jazz and ballads. With dinner it's a perfect date! \$7. 11pm. Also 1/29. Eichelberger's, 2742 17th St. at Florida. 863-4177.

Gay Comedy Night
Karen Ripley, Scott Capurro, Hank Donat. \$10. 10pm. Josie's, 16th at Market. 861-7933.

Queer in Your Ear
Audio highlights of *Sparks Fly* / with Dorothy Allison,



The Sum of Us
David Stevens' pleasant story of a Melbourne soccer-playing gay son and his coming out to his blue-collar dad. \$8-24. 8pm. Sun. at 2 & 7pm. Thru 2/13. Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Ave., Mill Valley. 388-5200.

Those Damn Calla Lilies
Artfull Circle Theatre has concocted another play version snatched from a film classic, this time *Stage Door*. Connie Champagne stars. \$20. 8pm. Sun. at 7pm. Thru 2/27. 626-5455.

Tom Ammiano & Karen Ripley
Homophile humor. \$10. 10pm. Josie's, 16th at Market. 861-7933.

Veronica Klaus
Heart & Soul Revue
Rhythm and blues shake up the house. Also Chesty Baker. \$8. 9:30pm. DNA Lounge, 375 11th St. 626-1409.

Why Things Burn
Marlene Meyer's comedy about the nature of evil, radical men with maps to stars' homes, chips on their shoulders, and matches to burn. \$17-21. 8:30pm. Sun. at 2 & 7:30pm. Thru 2/13. Magic Theatre, Fort Mason Center. 441-8822.

SATURDAY 22

Amnesia
Beth B, alternative video artist and performer since the '70s, presents a multimedia installation and retrospective video screening, with taped performances by Jack Smith, Lydia Lunch, Robbie McCauley, John Lurie. Thru 2/19. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom btwn. 8th & 9th. 626-5416.

Bewitched, The Play
New theatrical version of the old TV show. Proceeds go to the HIV Touring Project. \$15. 8pm. Extended thru 1/29. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Beyond Therapy
Christopher Durang's quirky farce about shrinks, lovelorn bisexuals, and nut job therapists. \$20. 8pm. Hotel York's Plush Room, 940 Sutter. 885-2800.

Chrystos & Melanie DeMore. 12:30pm. KPFA radio 94.1FM.

Slavyanka
Local men's Slavic chorus performs traditional ensemble works and folk music. \$8-12. 8pm. SF Memorial & Performing Arts Center, 401 Van Ness Ave., 2nd. Fl. 979-8690.

SUNDAY 23

D.J. Lebowitz
Rockin' piano player does everything from Black Flag to the Monkees. \$5 (\$15 with all-u-can-eat yummy pasta). 10pm. Sundays in Jan. Eichelberger's, 2742 17th St at Florida. 863-4177.

Gino Hollander
Expressive, colorful mixed media paintings and lithographs. Thru 1/31. Circle Gallery, 140 Maiden Lane. 989-2100.

Landscape Into Art
Group exhibition of artists from NIAD (National Institute of Art & Disabilities). Thru 2/28. Florence Ludins-Katz Gallery, 700 Howard at 3rd. 978-ARTS.

Pas de Deux ex Machina
You've heard of industrial music. How about industrial dance? In Susanne Linke's *Ruhr-Ort*, her all-male ensemble (rt.) of six men clank sheet metal and arc-welding equipment with dancerly elan. It's movement with sparks flying. Choreographer Linke hopes for a "glorious evocation of the factory floor" very reminiscent of her German homeland in Ruhrgebiet. Cheerful place, we're sure. \$18. 7:30pm. January 26 & 27. Center for the Arts at Yerba Buena Gardens, 700 Howard at 3rd. 978-ARTS.

For even more industrial strength performance, Zaccho Dance Theatre's *In Steel's Shadow* (left) includes a ten-ton bridge crane in the cast. The collaboration of choreographers, composers and sculptors dive hard hat first into the relationship between man, metal and movement. Jan 21-23, 26-29. \$12.50 8pm. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida at 17th. 621-7797.

551 23rd St., Richmond. (510) 620-0290.

Martha Graham: A Legend in Her Time
Photography exhibit of Imogen Cunningham and Barbara Morgan's documentation of the great choreographer's dances. Thru 4/9. SF Palm Gallery, 399 Grove St. 255-4800.

Proper Pronouns Productions
Promotional event for lesbian & gay musical artists, with CDs and cassettes for sale, with part of the proceeds benefiting local chapters of GLAAD. Live performances, too. Free. 1pm. 3285 25th St. Apt. 202. 647-3055.

Renew Year
Installation and painting show of works by Reginald Cox, Donna Han, Cliff Hengst, Melissa Levin & Tim O'Toole. Thru 1/29. Kiki, 483 14th St. 863-KIKI.

Scott Siedman
"Love Over Death," an exhibit of six artworks. Morphos Gallery, 544 Hayes. 626-1936.

The Sum of Us, Veronika Klaus, Those Damn Calla Lilies
(all FRI.)



Bailame Mucho



Acclaimed flamenco dancer Sara de Luis (above) will perform in **Homenaje**, a tribute to 20th Century Spanish dance. A surefire evening of passionate art, the show runs Jan. 27-30 at the Cowell Theatre, Fort Mason Center. 8pm. \$20. 392-4400.

MONDAY 24

Gay Comedy Open Mike
MC Danny Williams. Aspiring comics can call to sign up by 7pm. \$5. 8pm. Josie's, 16th & Market. 861-7933.

Minnie Pearl Necklace
Kooky country in a queer kind of drag way, with new band member Jonny Getches on piano. \$2. 9:30pm. Mondays thru Jan. Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market at Sanchez. 861-5016.

NOW Access Comedy Benefit
Sabrina Matthews and three other comics perform in a benefit for the National Organization for Women's fight to keep reproductive rights legal. \$10. 9pm. The Punchline, 444 Battery St. 397-4337.

TUESDAY 25

Charlie Chan Is Dead
Selected readings by the authors of a new Asian-American fiction anthology, including performer and essayist Jessica Hagedorn. 7:30pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

Foggy City Dancers
Square dance with gay & lesbian friends. 7:30-9:30pm. Live Oak School, 117 Diamond St. 905-4546.

Gay & Lesbian Folk Dancing
Hoof it up with queer dancers. Every week, 7:30-9:30pm. Eureka Valley Rec. Center, Collingwood at 18th. 585-9784.

Terry Castle
Author of *The Apparitional Lesbian: Female Homosexuality and Modern Culture* reads from her book and talks about everything from Marie Antoinette to Eurydice. 7pm. Cody's Books, 2454 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley. (510) 845-7852.

Who's Afraid of Red, Blue, Yellow, Green & Orange?
Keith Boadwee's boldly colored images of nipples, dicks and butthairs enlarged to gargantuan proportions. Thru 2/5. SF Camerawork, 70 12th. 621-1001.



Sylvia Plachy's "Mishi & Grandpa" in *Flesh & Blood* (WED.)

WEDNESDAY 26

Between Thumb and Forefinger
Barbara DeGenevieve's exhibit of work exploring sexuality, gender images and age differences. Thru 2/19. Eye Gallery, 1151 Mission. 431-6911.

Ceremony of Spirit
Nature and memory in contemporary Latino art, including artists from Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and Panama. \$3. Thru 2/20. The Mexican Museum, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. D. 441-0404.

Coffee Will Make You Black
Author April Sinclair reads from her novel about a young African-American woman's life and sexuality. \$3-10. 8pm. Old Wives' Tales Bookstore, 1009 Valencia at 21st. 821-4676.

Flesh and Blood
Photographers' images of their families, including gay artists Duane Michals, David Hockney and closet case Annie Leibovitz. 100 prints by 50 artists, an amazing collection. Thru 3/6. The Ansel Adams Center for Photography, 250 4th St. 495-7000.

Images of AIDS
Exhibit of photographic portraits by Dr. Robert Neger of PWAs. Thru March. New Conservatory Theatre Art Gallery, 25 Van Ness. 861-4914.

Lesbian & Gay Film Class
Daniel Mangin shows rare and popular screen clips and features with queer themes. This week: *Before Stonewall*, a fascinating documentary about pre-60s gay life, and *She Don't Fade*, about a young black lesbian. \$49. Screenings thru June. 6:30pm. Everett Middle School, 17th & Church. Also 2-3pm, Wed. & Thu., City College, Cloud Hall, Rm. 247. 239-3383.

Sharon McKnight & Craig Carnelia
Famed local cabaret singer and Tony-nominated composer perform his tunes with flair. \$12-16. 8pm. Marin Jewish Community Center, 200 N. San Pedro Rd., San Rafael. 479-2000.

THURSDAY 27

Box Conspiracy
George Coates' latest multimedia theatre work invokes a Nielsen family and the insidious interactive tube technology that takes over their lives. \$14-34. 8pm. Thru 1/30. George Coates Performance Works, 110 McAllister. 863-4130.

Box 27
Michael Norman Mann's play about a gay Marine. Thru Jan. 23, Wed. thru Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 3pm. \$17.50-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Charles LeDray
Masculinity and heroism explored through hand-sewn uniforms, assembled clothing and exploration of gay "butch" imagery. Thru 1/29. Jack Hanley Gallery, 41 Grant Ave. 291-8911.

Coming Home Hospice Bingo
Play and raise funds for the hospice. \$12 buy-ins. 7pm. 100 Diamond St. 552-7454.

Critical Mass
Diverse exhibit of figurative painting, sculpture and photography. Thru 2/6. Opt Art Gallery, 250 4th St., 2nd Fl. 546-7846.

This Week's Dinner Specials

Crispy-Roasted Peking Duck with ginger-plum sauce and caribbean rice .9.75

All-American Meatloaf with mashed potatoes & gravy .7.95

Cuban-Style Barbequed Medallions of Pork Loin with citrus-herb marinade .9.95

Grilled 12-oz. N.Y. Steak with mushroom & merlot sauce, crispy potatoes and onion rings .12.50

Escargot in the Shell with herb butter & garlic toast .5.25

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531 Castro Street, between 18th/19th
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PHOTO: HARBOUR STUDIOS

BAY AREA REPORTER BAZAAR

Mr. Marcus

Richard Benoit Wins MAL '94

The Baltimore Eagle's Richard Benoit overcame stiff competition from 17 Eastern seaboard leather men last Sunday at Tracks bar in Washington D.C., to become the 9th winner of this title begun by the Centaur MC in D.C.

Almost 1500 leather men and women braved frigid temperatures that paralyzed air and auto transport in the Washington area to partake of the leather community's third largest leather event after the I.M.L and Mr. Drummer competitions.

The foreign contingent was well represented at the competition, with delegates from Germany, Canada, England, Holland, France and Belgium. The "colors" of at least 100 bike clubs were represented.

The 3-day marathon of brunches, cocktails, parties, leather vendors and the contest itself were perceived as "the best \$30 I ever spent," as one person put it. It goes to prove how a bike club with true camaraderie, brotherhood, cooperation and leather pride can succeed in raising money — in this case \$1 million — for worthy charities.

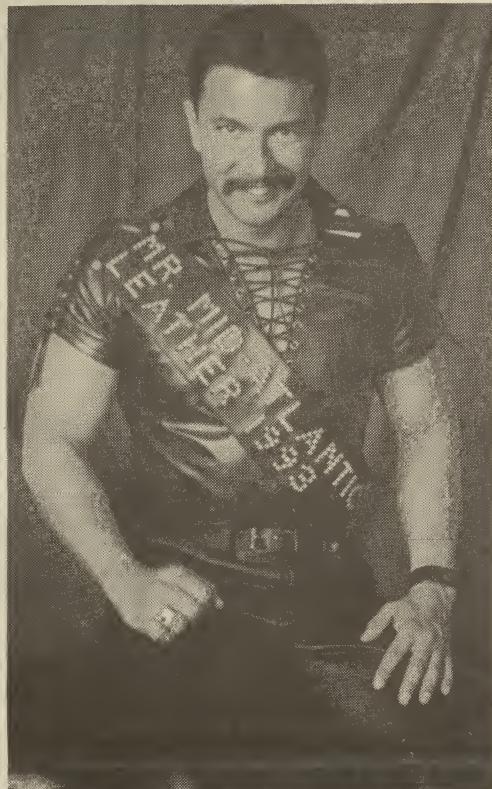
As emcee of the event, our own Lenny Broberg proved peerless in his role, which included dealing not only with many contestants, but others who were anxious to express their pride and gratitude for the outgoing incumbent, Frank Nowicki. There were tiaras, scepters, crowns and a parasol, among the many things that were "gifted" to Frank — all of them well deserved.

The biggest ovation of the evening came, however, when after handing a dozen red leather roses to friends who helped champion his year with the title, he brought to the stage the person most responsible for his successes, his mother. Tears and emotional bedlam rocked the cavernous Tracks bar.

Entertainment was superb. A leather magic act from Dallas, a superb metallic bondage and suspension demo was showed off, and just before the winners were announced, a Disco Diva was brought on who just tore the place up.

The second runner-up was the NY Spike's Andy Borden, who is everyone's object of lust; the first runner-up was the dark, dazzling beauty, Victor Magide. Mr. Upstate N.Y. Leather — and the winner — was blond-haired Michael Benoit of Baltimore. Outgoing, articulate and leather-positive, he should do well at I.M.L next May.

In spite of the deep freeze in D.C., the warmth of the leather delegates and the Centaur members was more than



Frank Nowicki

enough to off-set Mother Nature's frigid wrath. Special thanks to Mark Cohen, Lauger Valentine, Len Griffith, Dr. John Lawson, the Brenton B and B, Mr. P's, Green Lantern and Tim Wong. And to Frank Nowicki, thanks for a great year and for all your hard work, effort and inspiration. Your main man, Jim McGlade needs your attention now — he's been "on hold" for a year. And Frank, we do want you back now and again. Your fans, friends and all those spotlights and camera lenses will not give you up. Hark! Mt. Rushmore is calling!

★ ★ ★

The Studs BBS guys are in the middle of voting for their annual Mr. Cut and Mr. Uncut Contest. The deadline for voting is January 31 and there are 60 cut hopefuls and only 19 uncut aspirants. You have to see the ballot to believe it! It consists of 14 pages of photos of the candidates. There are even Mr. Cut and Mr. Uncut couples you can vote for. The date for the announcement of the winners was unknown at my deadline, but stay tuned for more information! It's usually a beer/soda bust at a local bar and announcement of winners where you will see the face(s) attached to the dicks that were running for the title! Is this bizarre? Why not?

Two major events coming to our town within the next 60 days will bring hordes of visitors, both male and female, to our lovely city. The weekend of February 18-20, Bearfax and the Bear Hug Group present Bear Expo '94 and the International Mr. Bear Contest.

One month later, March 17-20, it's the International Ms. Leather competition and I understand there are some 23 contestants already signed up.

Registration for Bear Expo '94 is at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn Friday, February 18 from 1900-2200, followed by a post-registration party at the Cinch on Polk Street. Saturday, February 19, the opening session is from 1030 to 1100 and exhibits, vendors, discussions and games run until 1700. The newly added bear art show this year will include photos, prints, paintings, cartoons, sculptures, ceramics and 3-D stuff plus 10-minute homespun videos. Feel free to enter your stuff if it's bear-ish.

Also on Saturday, there are beer/soda busts at various locations and a Bear Hug party from 2000 to 0100 the next morning.

Sunday, February 20, the vendor market continues and the art exhibition will be open from 1045 to 1700. At 1730, a cocktail party has been planned that will last until 1830. It's to be followed by the big banquet and the International Mr. Bear competition. On Sunday at 1100, (Continued on next page)

Mr. Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

there will be a brunch on the SF Eagle patio. The whole thing will cost \$125 at this late date. If you need more information, call Bear Expo at (415) 647-9127. If you want in-

formation about travel and accommodations, call Archer Travel at (800) 932-8883.

All the details for International Ms. Leather weekend have not yet reached me, but

they now have a hotline (800) 639-4675. Bay Areans can call (415) 487-6226. Packages for contributors and other supporters are available now. More on this later. ▼

Affairs to Remember

Thursday, January 20: Looking for Mr. February '95 on the Bare Chest calendar tonight at 2130. The winner gets a \$100 cash prize and the second-page spot on the calendar. This is the 10th anniversary of the calendar, so the tone will be celebratory. See you at the Eagle!

Friday, January 21: Free anonymous HIV testing at Blow Buddies from 2200 to 2400. It's open to the public, and it's free! Thanks, Brad!

Saturday, January 22: The

15 Association's first play party of the year gets under way this evening. To get an invitation and to learn the location, call (415) 673-0452.

Saturday, January 29: Ms. San Francisco Leather contest at 175 King St. tonight at 2000. Tickets are \$12 in advance, but if you buy a group of five, they're only \$10 apiece. The theme is "Wild—in the Jungle," and it will be Queen Cougar's swan song. Call (415) 626-3556 for more information. ▼

Saturday, February 5: Cal Eagles MC celebrates its 10th anniversary with a soiree on the patio of the SF Eagle. By invitation or club overlay only.

Memorial service for former Mr. Sacramento Leather Randy Gray has been planned for today at the Wreck Room in Sacramento at 1500. An auction of personal memorabilia from his estate will immediately follow the service. Call (916) 456-1181 for more information. ▼

Sports



Team San Francisco Jackets

Two athletes try on the Team San Francisco uniform jackets, testing out the look for the June 1994 Gay Games. The jackets are available to try on at Fleet Feet on Market but must be ordered through Team San Francisco. Call (415) 824-8118 for more information.

(Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

Sports Guide

 
Basketball

San Francisco Slammers women's basketball team. Call Susan at 648-4931.

Men's Basketball — call Tony at 621-2710.

Bicycling

Different Spokes Bicycle Club promotes noncompeti-

tive cycling for men and women on both road and mountain bikes. Rides each weekend, plus regular "Decide and Ride" each Sunday at 10 a.m. McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park. For schedule or newsletter, please call (415) 282-1647 or write PO Box 14711, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Boating

Barbary Coast Boating Club — gay boat owners and enthusiasts meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m., Berkeley Yacht Club, Berkeley Marina, West to the end of University Ave., #1 Seawall Drive, (415) 905-6267.

Bowling

Women's Business Bowling League. Call Ann at 641-5795.

Tavern Guild Bowling League. Call Mal Garcia at 752-2366.

Boxing

Bay Area Boxing Club, a fully sanctioned USABF (United States Amateur Boxing Federation) meets Thursdays at 8 p.m. Open to all interested gay men and lesbians; all skill levels are welcome. Call Greg at 585-2365.

(Continued on next page)

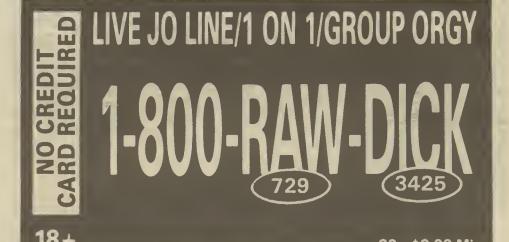


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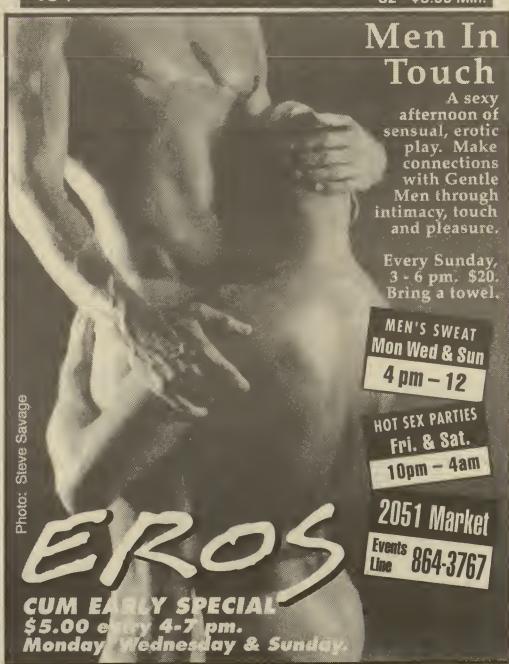
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Sports Guide

(Continued from previous page)

Bodybuilding

Arcadia Bodybuilding Society — call 978-9495 or write ABS, 1230 Market Street, SF, CA 94114.

Football

Women's Flag Football: Interested women call Maureen (415) 479-1131.

San Francisco Trojans Football. Two games every Saturday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., at Silver Terrace near Silver and Bayshore, SF. All skill levels welcome. Call Gary at 344-8873.

Hiking

San Francisco Hiking Club — Call Clyde at 285-1260.

Gay and Lesbian Sierrans, official activity section of the Sierra Club. Call the hotline: 281-5666.

South Bay GLS — call the Loma Prieta GLS hotline at 408-236-2170.

Racquet and Paddle Sports

Gay & Lesbian Tennis Federation — John McEnhill, 864-0187, extension 4. Informal social doubles every Saturday and Sunday morning at the Flint and 16th Street tennis courts, weather permitting.

Table Tennis Anyone? Practice Tuesdays, 7:00-9:30 p.m., at Millberry Union, UCSF, 500 Parnassus, SF. Call Allen Balderson, 626-1787, or Lucie, 387-4476.

Running

San Francisco FrontRunners. Fun runs at Stow Lake Boat House in Golden Gate Park, every Saturday, 9 a.m. No-host brunch follows. Call John at 863-0954.

San Francisco Track & Field, practice every Tues. and Thurs., 6 p.m., and Sun., 10:00 a.m., at Kezar Stadium on Waller & Stanyan streets, SF. Call Rich 550-7966.

Bay Area Distance Runners. Call Dave Studach at 626-1380 or Lois Allen at 586-6013.

Scuba Diving

Northern California Rainbow Divers: Lesbian and Gay Scuba Club for the active diver in Northern California. Meets second Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. at the Sierra Club, 730 Polk Street, San Francisco. Call Greg Abrams for more info, (415) 821-2877.

Skiing

Saga North, lesbian and gay ski club. Call for more information (415) 995-2772.

Swimming

Tsunami Masters Swim Club — call Suzanne at 431-1933.

Sports Briefs

Seminar for Women Athletes

The Female Athlete, a seminar by sports chiropractor Dr. Abby Irwin, will be held Sunday, January 23, 1994, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., at Purely Physical Fitness, 1414 Castro Street.

Dr. Irwin will discuss injury patterns common to women, nutritional aspects of training, and gynecological



Boxing club sparring.

(Photo: Judi Parks)

Soccer

San Francisco Spikes Men's Soccer. Practice Tuesdays, 5:30-8 p.m., at Beach Chalet in Golden Gate Park. Call Carlo Togni at 821-4248.

Women's Soccer. Call Golden Gate Women's Soccer League Chair Jan Mullen at 753-0946.



Ethan James hits a homer during a Sunday winter pick-up game. (Photo: Jane Cleland)

Softball

S.F. Gay Softball League — Conducts a regular season of 14 games for men and women in three divisions from March through June. Winter pick-up ball on Sundays. Two games are played, one at 10:30 a.m. and another at noon, at Christopher Field — located behind the west end of the Safeway parking lot off Diamond Heights Blvd. Players of all skill levels are welcome. Please call Fred at (415) 381-0187 or Wendy at (510) 436-7959 for information.

concerns for women. She has served as the chiropractic physician for the Ironwoman Powerlifting and Bodybuilding competition in San Jose, and also worked at the U.S. Women's National Powerlifting Championships in 1987. The event is sponsored by the Arcadia Bodybuilding Society, and the cost is \$5.00 for ABS and Team San Francisco members, or \$8.00 for the general public.

Team San Francisco

Gay Games bound Team San Francisco hopes to take at least 1,000 athletes from the Bay Area to Gay Games IV in New York, June 18-25, 1994. TSF supplies members with the latest information coming out of New York, travel & housing, registration packets for all sports, and a uniform for Opening and Closing Ceremonies, and funds to help you get there. Members receive a quarterly newsletter and monthly calendars. To join TSF, call (415) 824-8118.

Volleyball

Volleyball practice every Sunday, 8 p.m., at Eureka Valley, 100 Collingwood. Call Tony Travers at 255-1332.

Club Volleyball practice for "B" league players and up every Saturday except first Saturday of each month, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at Eureka Valley, 100 Collingwood. Team and individual advanced players practice Mondays, 7:05 p.m., at Glen Park Gymnasium. Call Mike Bulawit at 731-2056.

Gay Volleyball. Every Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 18th St. & DeHarro. Everyone welcome. Jay: 864-0257.

Wrestling

San Francisco Wrestling Club practices Sundays, 3-5 p.m. Call Jim Frazier (510) 538-8490.

Golden Gate Wrestling Club. Practice Tuesdays evenings 7-9, Friday evenings 7-9, and Sundays 12:30-3 p.m. at Eureka Valley Rec Center, 100 Collingwood. All skill levels, men and women welcome. Call Gene at 821-2991, or Dave Wagner at 558-8412. Bay Area Wrestling Newsline at 227-5802.

Note: your sports group can be listed here. Send Sports Guide the name of your group, a brief description, the date, times, and locations of your practices, and a contact person for the group. B.A.R.'s Sports Guide, 395 9th St. SF CA 94103. ▼

Brilliant Anger

Before Night Falls: A Memoir by Reinaldo Arenas (translated by Dolores Koch); Viking; \$25

by Marv. Shaw

Reinaldo Arenas was a wildly sexual, anti-authoritarian, brilliantly talented author who came to us from poverty-stricken rural Cuba. Fatherless and only partially educated, he nevertheless cultivated a powerful means of self-expression which produced nine books, all of which because they were written from an anti-Castro stance, were composed at considerable peril. In this, his last book, an autobiography, Arenas tells the world about his life and struggles, with politics, sexuality and history, a struggle that ended in December 1990 when Arenas committed suicide in New York City.

Arenas was born in Holguin, Cuba in 1943. His early years were spent in a predominantly female household. His Grandmother ruled over everyone, and his mother and aunts struggled to survive without the men who had deserted them. Nature proved one of his only companions. He learned to live intimately with it, grew to respect and

love all its creatures, some of whom he learned he could fuck.

In his mid-teens, Arenas joined the rebellion against the viciously corrupt Batista regime. At first eager to do whatever the revolution demanded, he soon discovered that the Castro effort succeeded only because those behind it hated Batista so intensely, not because they had a better plan for organizing a government.

Disillusionment was swift and cruel. The new state grew increasingly repressive—especially toward those people whose personalities combined individualism, expressive talent, homosexuality and a resentment of authority.

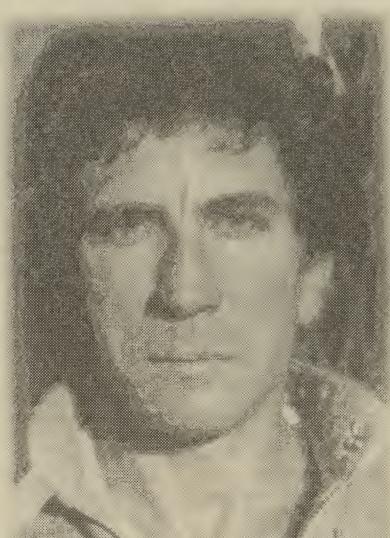
While Arenas' life grew increasingly nightmarish—constant surveillance, arrests, brutal incarceration dogged him—his creativity overflowed. With the help of devoted friends, like the expatriate Spaniards Jorge and Margarita Camacho, Arenas was finally published abroad. He developed an instant audience in countries like France, but

his successes earned him the enmity of the Castro regime.

Through secretive ingenuity, bravado and a certain cavalier disdain for conventional morality, Arenas and his friends managed to mine precious material from lives that others might call bleak and empty. In one of the book's more outlandish episodes, Arenas and company gain access to a deserted convent, which they proceed to systematically strip, even bringing down the building itself. There's no complex symbolism behind the scene, it's obviously a devilishly gleeful campaign leveled against a bourgeois institution.

But it's the flagrantly outrageous sex documented in this book which most powerfully demonstrates Arenas' authority-flouting. He and his colleagues involve themselves in frequent and intense sexual adventures, many of which involve gangs of adolescents.

One possible criticism that American gays might make of Arenas' work is that he subscribed wholeheartedly to the



Before Night Falls

latino machismo rule of strict role playing in sex, with himself and his like-minded compatriots almost always playing the passive role.

Though Arenas finally realized escape from Cuba, life in the U.S. was not without its disappointments. But at least here Arenas could cry out publicly against injustice and not be punished.

In the late '80s, Arenas learned he had AIDS. He took his own life at age 47 in 1990. In the introduction to *Before Night Falls*, he writes, "If you cannot live the way you want, there is no point in living."

We are fortunate to have the legacy of Arenas' work, in particular, this book, which establishes him as a gay man of indomitable character. ▼

Music

The Spirit of Melmac

'Incredibly Strange Music'
Captures Essence of '50s and '60s

by John Blanco

Incredibly Strange Music
Various Artists
Caroline



Strange sounds filled Mid-Atlantic homes in the 1950s and '60s. Living room walls shook from percussive mambos and merengues cranked up on hi-fis. "Peruvian" chanteuse Yma Sumac (her ethnicity is in question) and her four-octave range blew out stereo speakers. This was an era when otherwise conservative Americans were eager to sample unique new music of almost any ilk—as long as it wasn't that damn rock 'n' roll!

Incredibly Strange Music Volume 1 collects songs from some of the more unique performers of the '50s and '60s, singers and musicians who provided an alternative to the period's Hit Parade banality. These are artists from the furthest fringes of the music world. The closest thing to a celeb in this collection is Jo Ann Castle, the zaftig blonde who used to pound the ivories on *The Lawrence Welk Show*.

Overall, this disc is a big improvement on last summer's *Incredibly Strange Music* book, which presented long, and not always scintillating, Q and A interviews with collectors of vintage vinyl and some of the artists themselves. Re/Search Publication's Andrea Juno and V. Vale, editors of the book and compilers of this audio companion, succeed here in capturing the spirit of the old records, even on aseptic CD. They preserve the quaint snap, crackle and pop of vinyl

and even reprint original liner notes and cover art. (The best cover, *Dinner Music for a Pack of Hungry Cannibals*, features an almost sapphic scene involving two beatnik chicks, a bikini-clad Doris Day lookalike and a giant stew pot.)

This collection is dominated by exotic, frenzied instrumentals. Billy Mure's "Hawaiian War Chant" is an especially spunky number, combining then-chic Polynesian rhythms with snarly guitars. The star instrumental, though, is Dave Harris' aforementioned *Dinner Music for a Pack of Hungry Cannibals*, an amalgam of vintage stripper music, jazzy '50s film score and Xavier Cugat-style big band. This amazing cut sounds like a Danny Elfman soundtrack at its weirdest and most anachronistic.

The rest of *Strange Music* is made up of novelty songs (Katie Lee's "Will to Fail," a chipper ditty about a chronic self-defeatist) and experimental music (Dean Elliot's proto-industrial "Lonesome Road," which incorporates the sounds of cement mixers and

air compressors into a big band arrangement).

One song that defies easy categorization is "A Cosmic Telephone Call," Kahli Bahlu's spiritual/novelty/comedy/mind-fuck tune. This 11-minute cut has yogi and "Gypsy Star Child" Bahlu yakking it up, via a cosmic phone line, with Buddha, who is revealed to be a coffee drinker and a bit of a flirt. Buddha passes along groovy revelations like, "Death is a beautiful trip on a spaceship" while sitars are gently strummed in the background.

The lack of conventional good taste among these performers doesn't translate to a lack of talent. Even Les Paul would've admired guitarist Buddy Merrill's chops on "Busy Bee," a rockabilly take on "Flight of the Bumblebee." The sole example of sloppy musicianship is Rajput, the Indian combo Rajput and the Sepoy, who plucks haplessly at the sitar on a sad, off-key version of Jimmy Webb's "Up, Up and Away." It's the only track here that's just too painful to listen to more than once. ▼

PEOPLE

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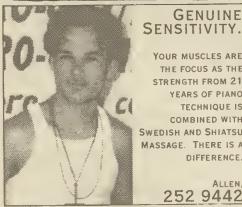
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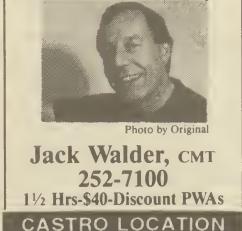


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People and Personals

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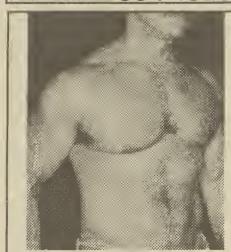
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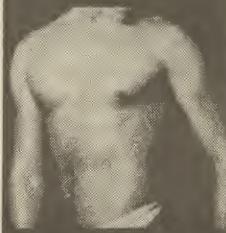
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Big Strong Hands On A Big
Muscle Hairy Guy w/No
attitude. Robbie 861-1671

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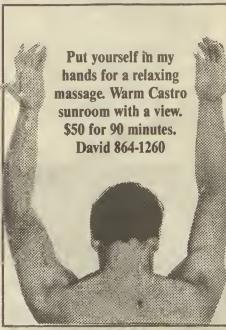
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Nude Swedish Massage
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Massage • Erotic
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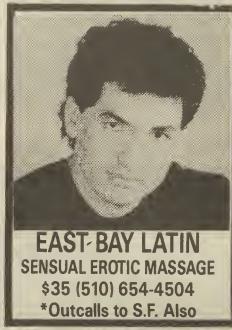
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Nice & Relaxed
A full-body Swedish massage
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Warm table, warm oil.
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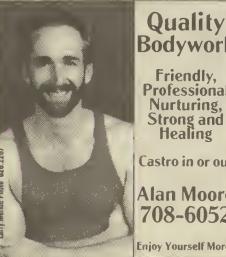
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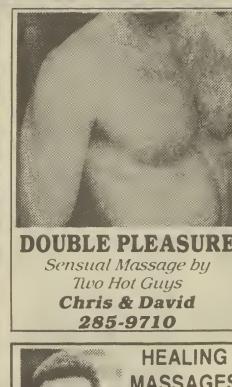


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Friendly,
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People and Personals



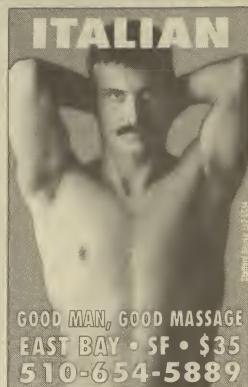
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Sensual Massage by
Two Hot Guys
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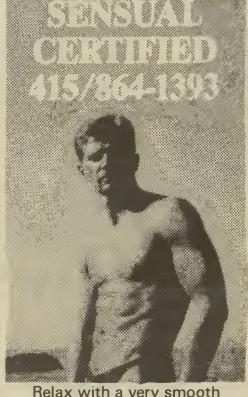


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GOOD MAN, GOOD MASSAGE
EAST BAY • SF • \$35
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A RELAXING MASSAGE
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Firm, Erotic Swedish Massage
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Swedish, Deep Tissue
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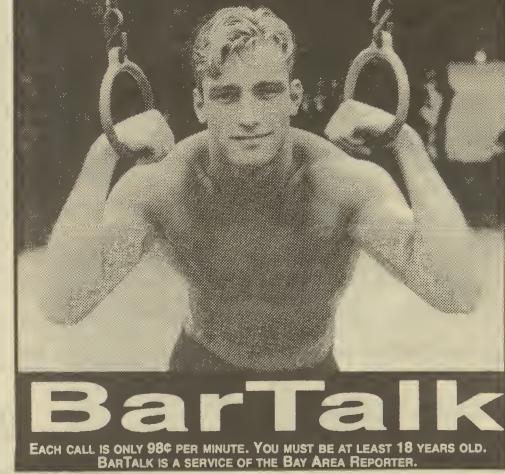
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Asian & Latin men.

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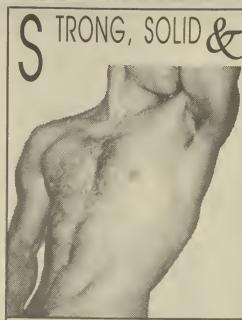
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BRENT
Classic good looks. The
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Well-versed, energetic,
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37 y/o. kid sports size
15 sneakers and a
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inside. Wanna play?
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Body Builder
240 Pounds, 25 years old
6'1", 52" ch., 20" a.
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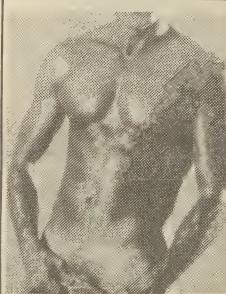
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23 y/o, 8½", 5'7", 145 lbs.
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SHOW-OFF
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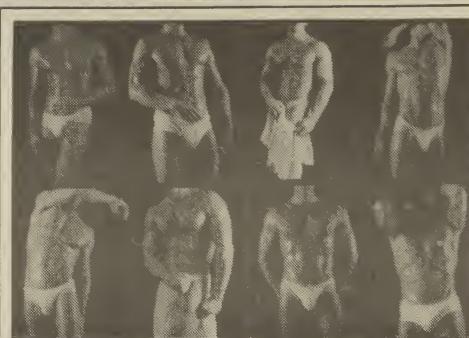
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Tall, Masc, Hairy, Blond
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"A Man For All Reasons"
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YOUNG BOY
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9X6" HORSE HUNG
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Handsome ★ Hot ★ Hungry ★ Hungry!
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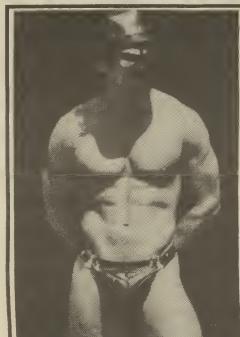
People and Personals

MODELS & ESCORTS

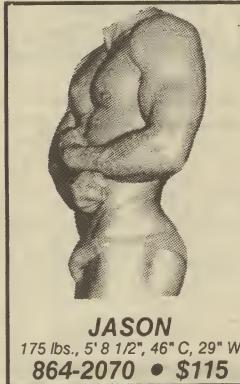


photo: Steve Savage

FIST
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Handsome, 34, 6'4", 175
FF, TT, Scat.
AI 998-5508



TONY
A Man's Man
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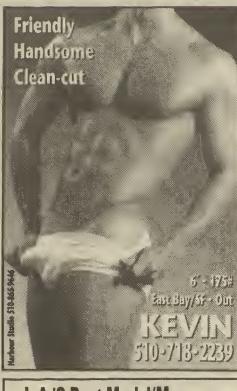
JASON
175 lbs., 5'8 1/2", 46" C, 29" W
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B/Builder, 230 Lbs.,
6'1", 50" Ch, 20"A,
25 Years Old
From Italy
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HOT YOUNG STUD
ONE HOT TIME
MARC
266-0800
24 Hr.S. 23 Yrs. 5'8" 145 lbs.

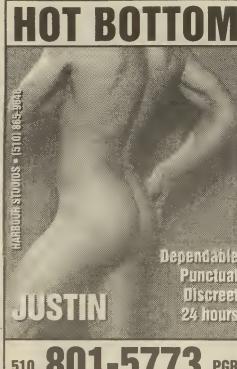
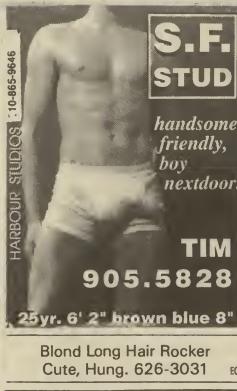
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PRETTY BOY
20 Yr. Hot Top, Bottom, New
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Will travel. In \$80 out \$100
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5'9", 150 Hot Pistol
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man w/a soft
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dreams come true.
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Top/Versatile, Friendly
8 X 6 PIPE
\$100 Out
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8" Hard + Ready
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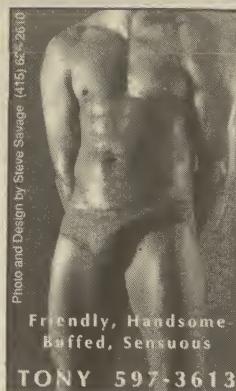


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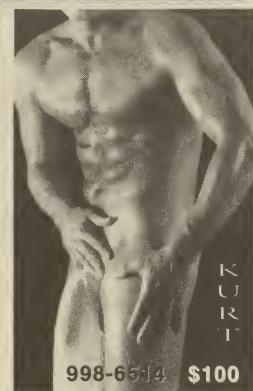


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KURT
998-6614 \$100

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Sexy Blond
CALVIN KLEIN
Model 27 yrs. 9" thick
round buns, rock-solid
864-0788 Ryan

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6'1" LEATHY MASCULINE TOP
SHAVED HEAD GOATEE PITS
VERY HANDSOME MUSCULAR

DIRTY MOUTH SHOWOFF

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E03

CA. BLOND BOY
Page Jon@303-1235 In/out 24hr.
E03

TONY 597-3613

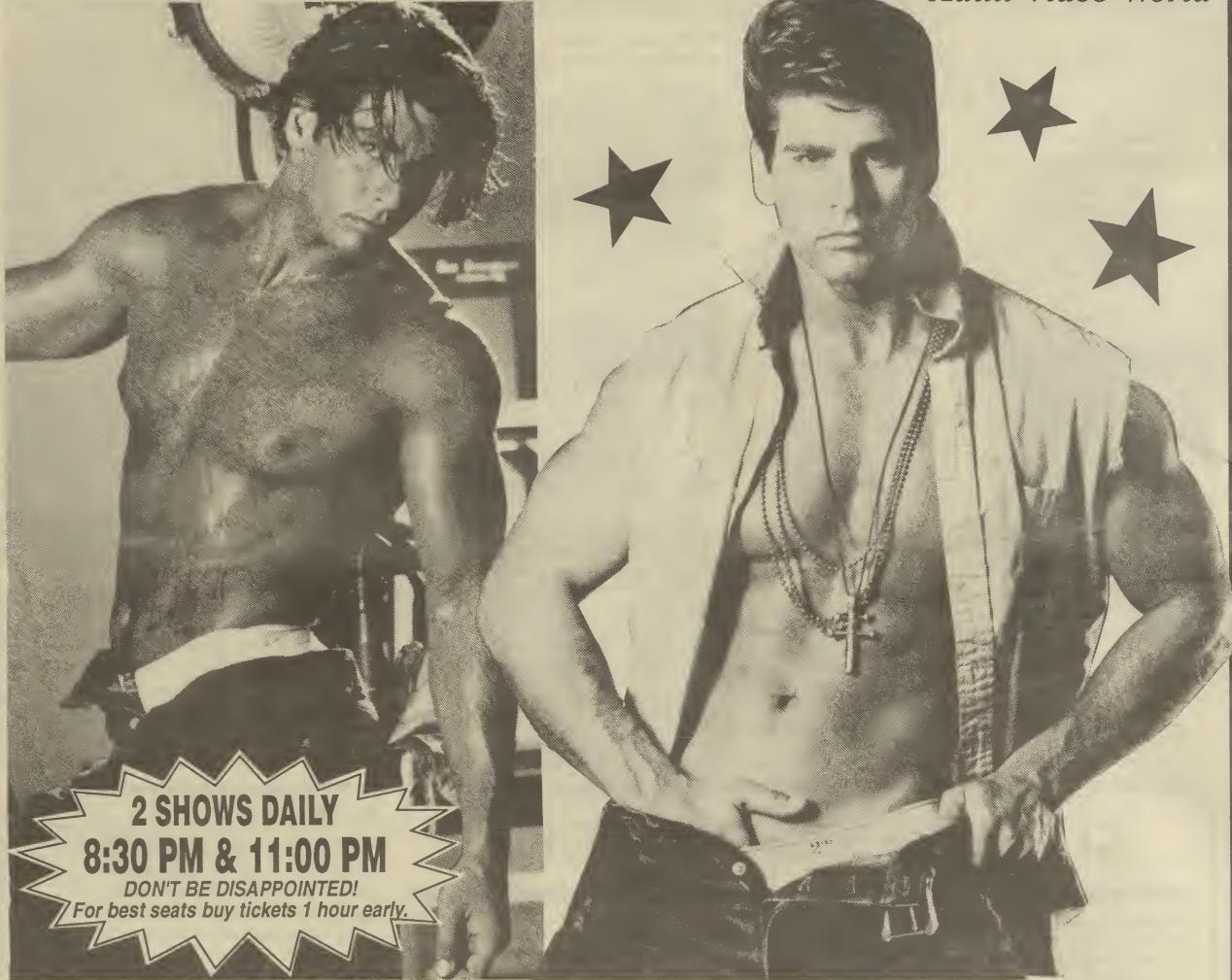
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